

The Clone Wars: Act on Instinct

Story by Pablo Hidalgo

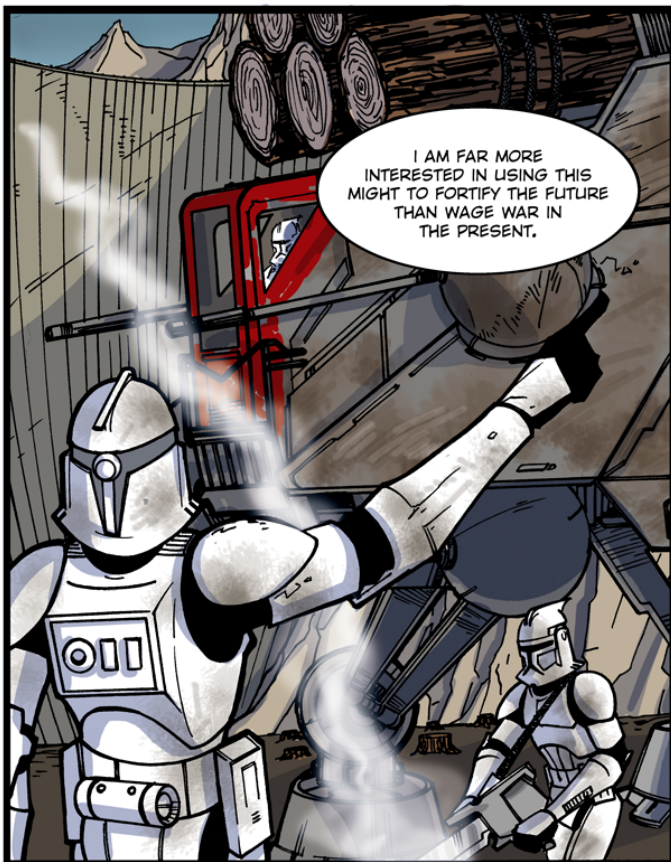
Art by Thomas Hodges; Grant Gould; Jeff Carlisle and Daniel Falconer

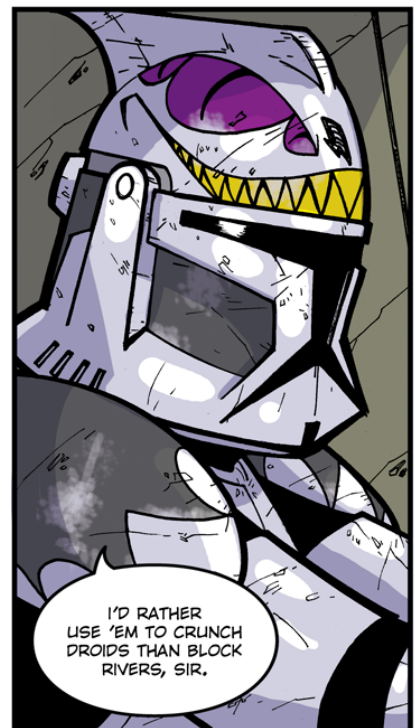
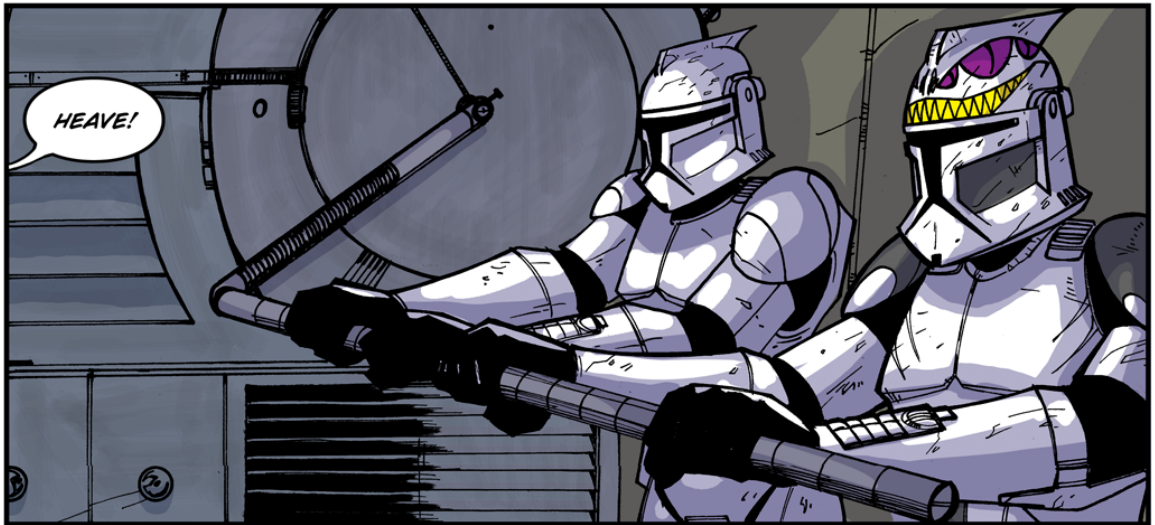
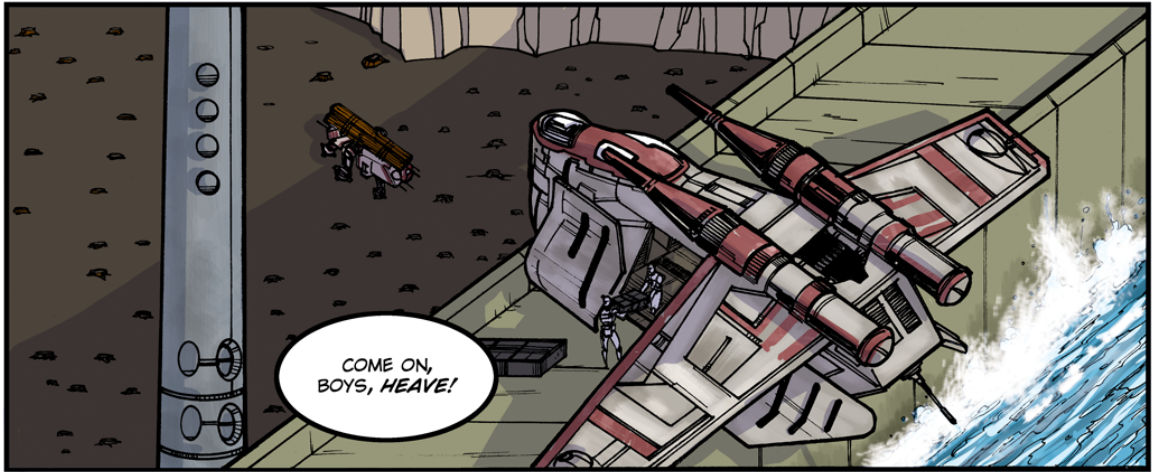
Letters by Grant Gould

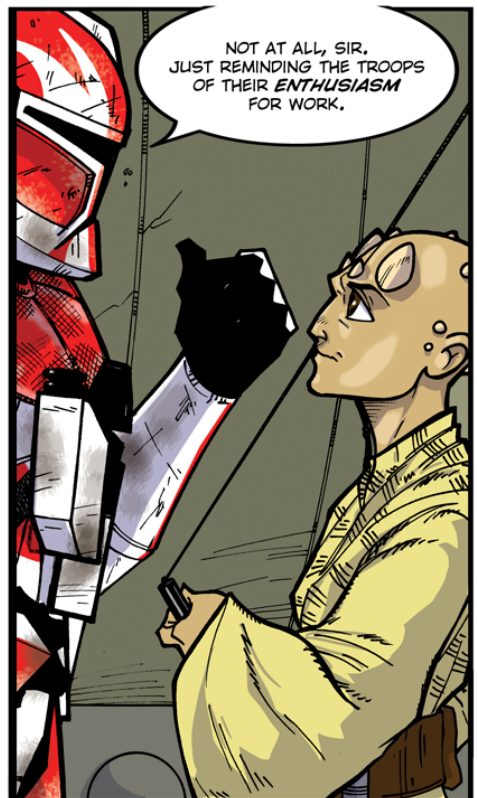
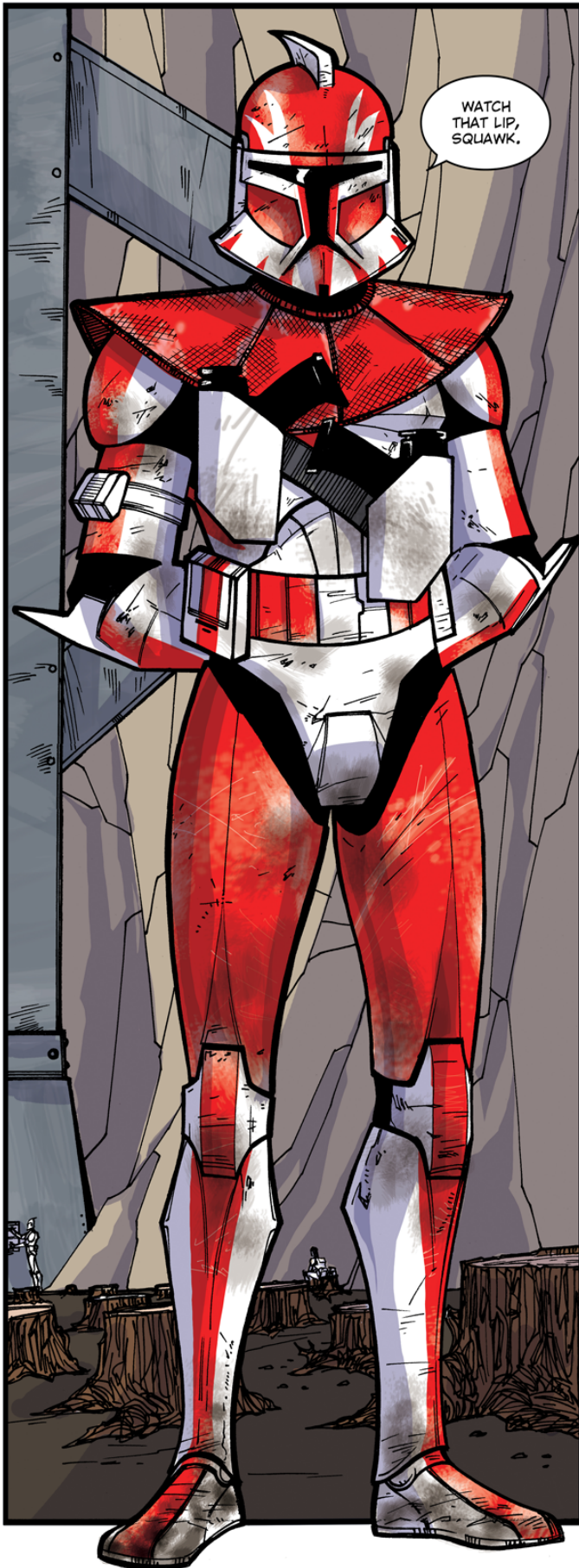
Special thanks to Frank Parisi, Sue Rostoni, Leland Chee and Dave Filoni

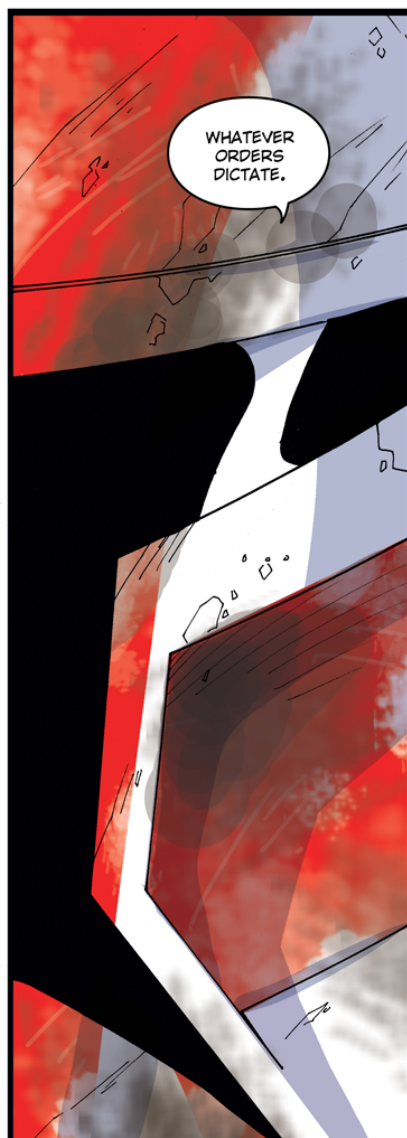
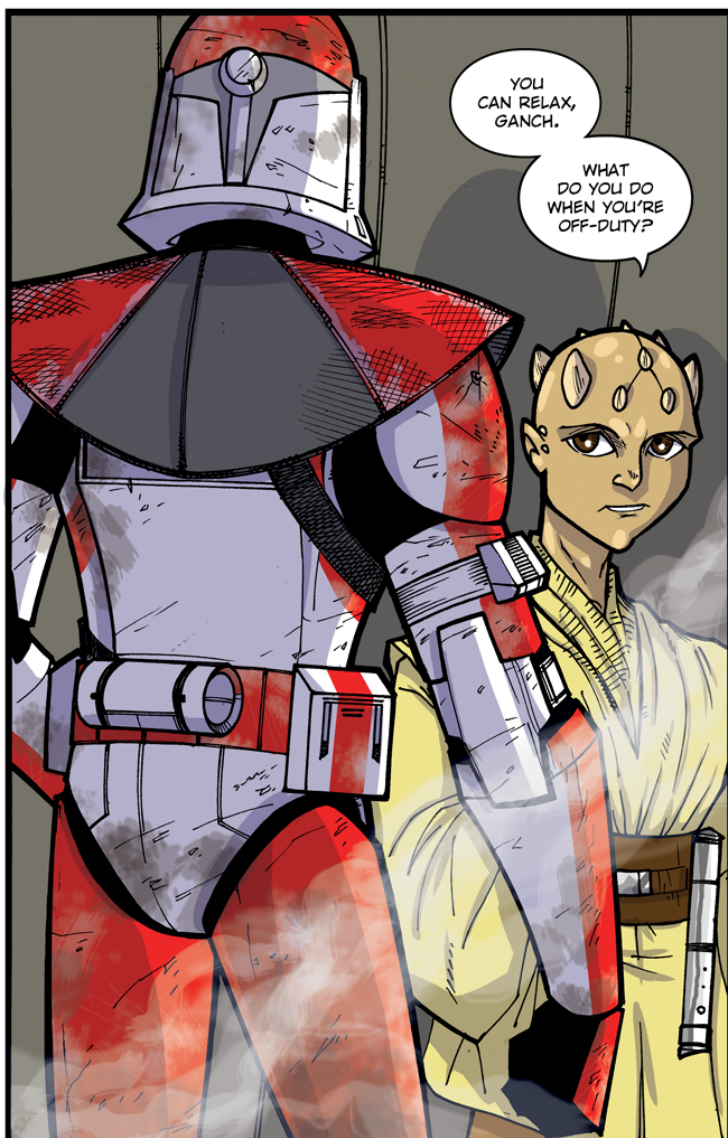
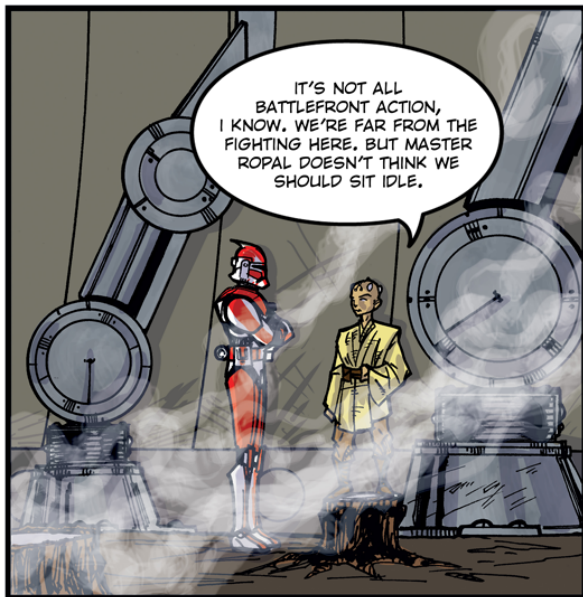
The events in this story occur during Season Two of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*

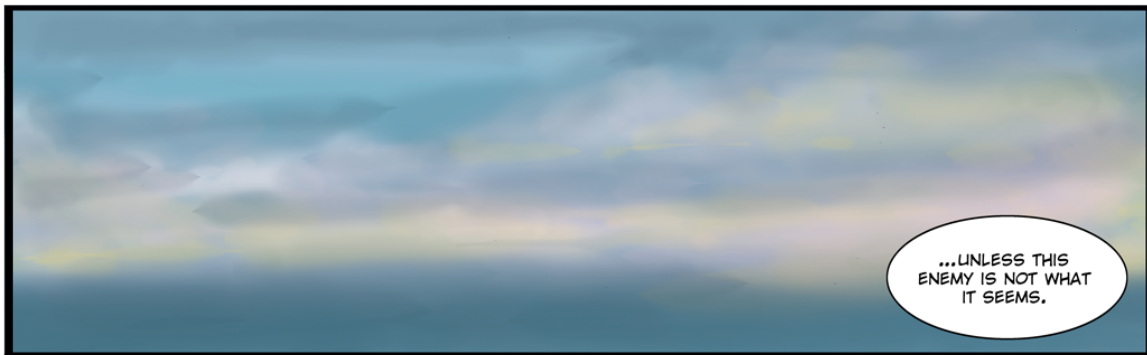














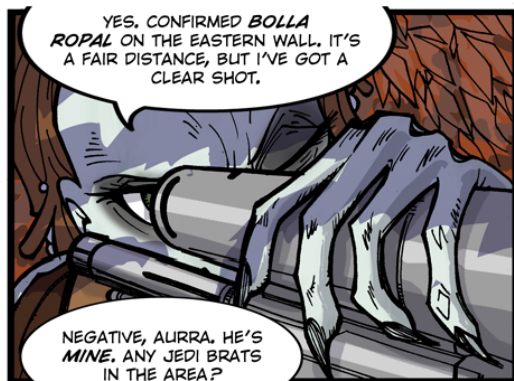
NASHTAH TEAM,
COME IN.

BLAST IT,
AURRA, WHAT AM I
PAYING YOU FOR?



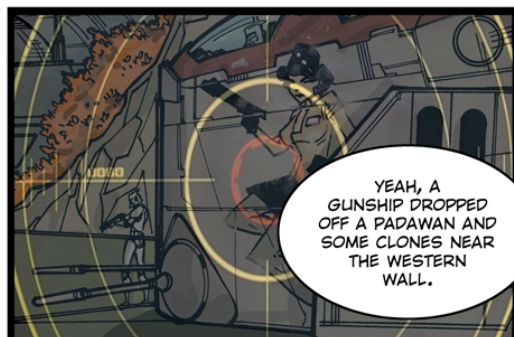
NOT ENOUGH
FOR MOUNTAINEERING,
BANE, BUT I'M IN POSITION
ON THE WESTERN END
OF THE VALLEY.

HAVE YOU
SPOTTED THE
TARGET?



YES, CONFIRMED **BOLLA
ROPAL** ON THE EASTERN WALL, IT'S
A FAIR DISTANCE, BUT I'VE GOT A
CLEAR SHOT.

NEGATIVE, AURRA. HE'S
MINE. ANY JEDI BRATS
IN THE AREA?



YEAH, A
GUNSHIP DROPPED
OFF A PADAWAN AND
SOME CLONES NEAR
THE WESTERN
WALL.



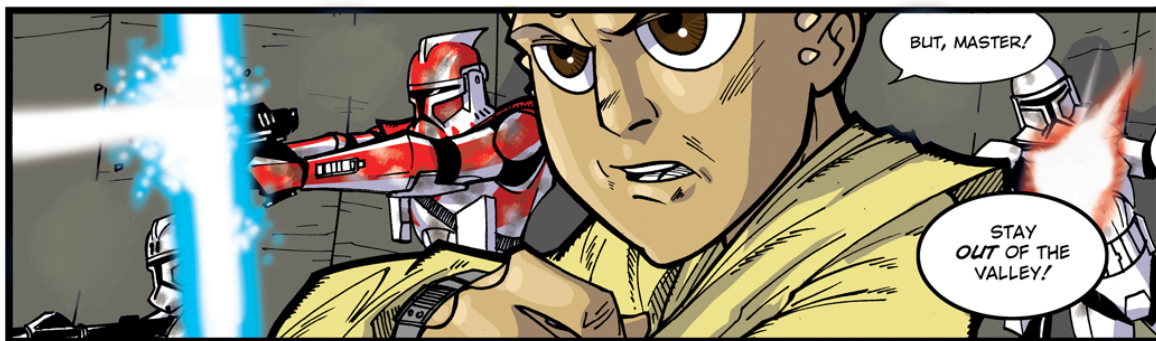
KEEP THEM
Distracted, I'M
MOVING IN.

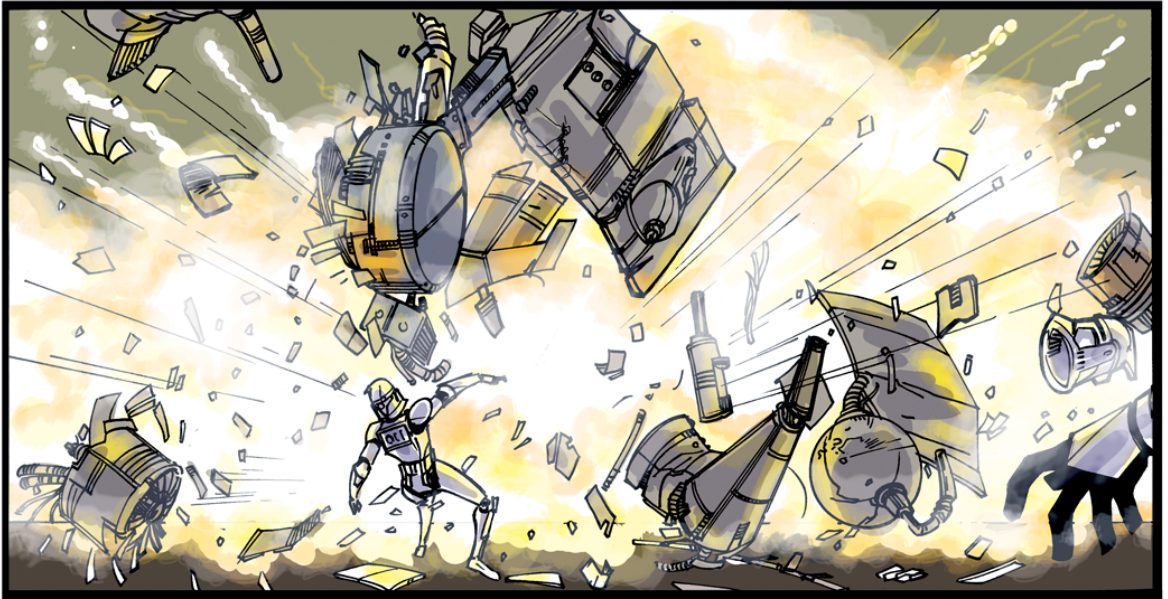
YOU HEARD
HIM, BLAST THAT
GUNSHIP.

UNDERSTOOD,
COMMANDER
VENTRESS.

YOU
GLITCH-HEAD!
THIS IS **AURRA
SING!**

IT *IS*?
THESE FEMALE
ORGANICS ALL LOOK
THE SAME
TO ME.



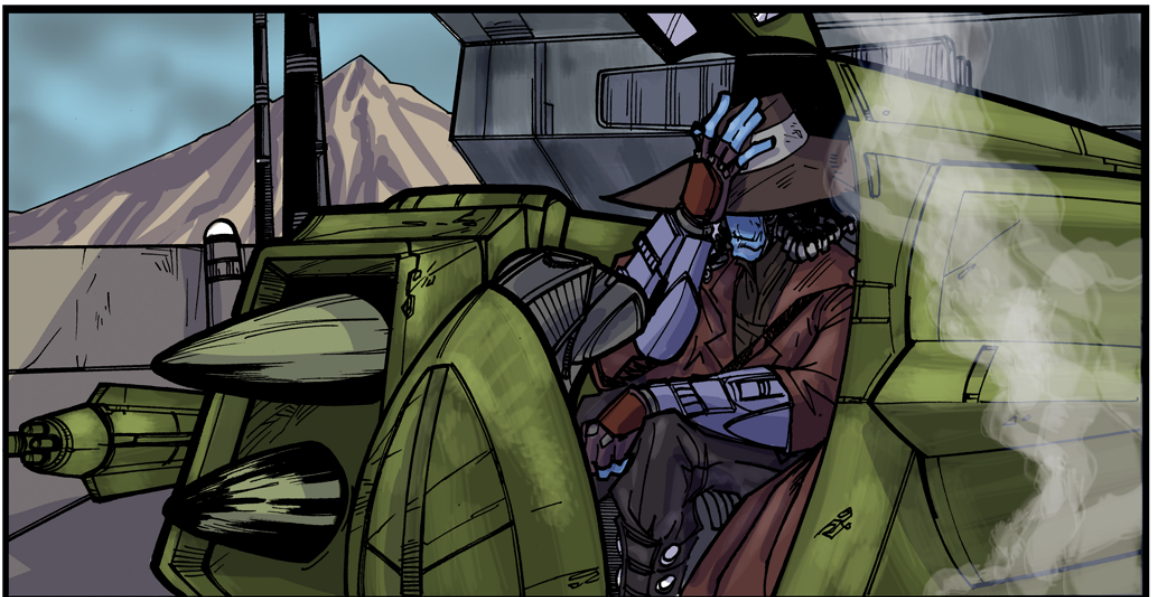
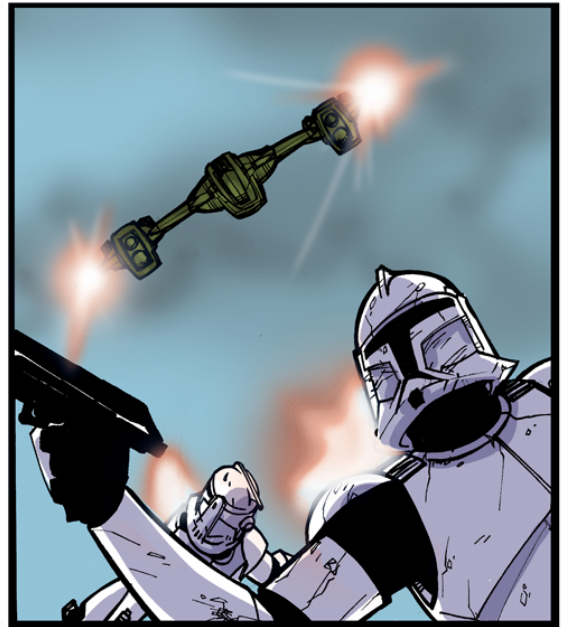
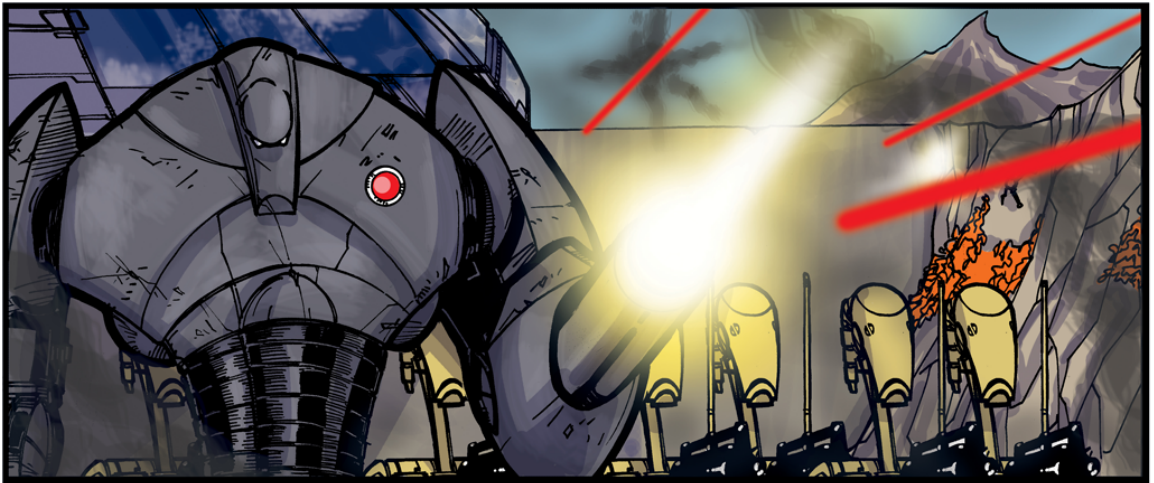


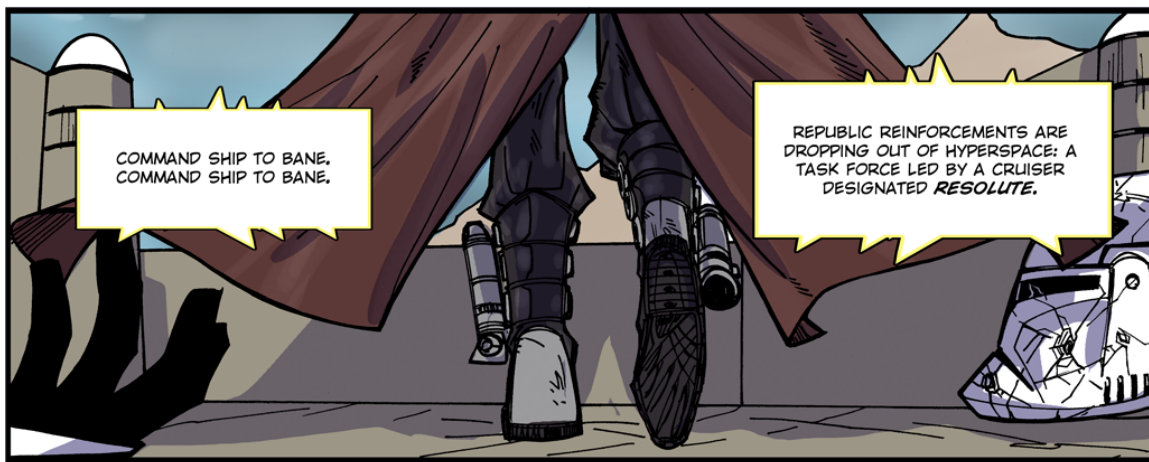
To Be Continued...



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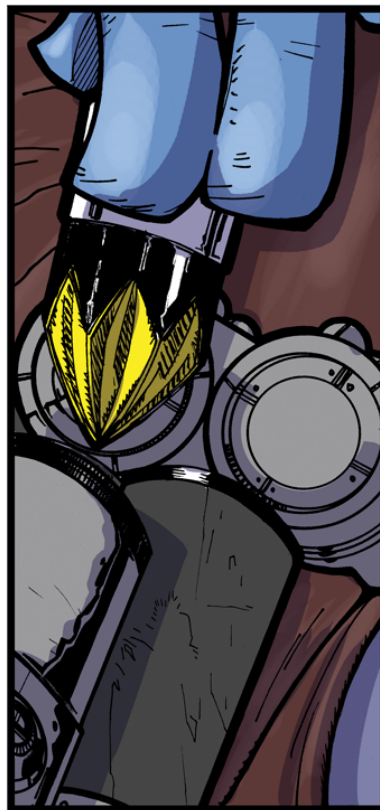
COMMAND SHIP TO BANE,
COMMAND SHIP TO BANE.

REPUBLIC REINFORCEMENTS ARE
DROPPING OUT OF HYPERSPACE: A
TASK FORCE LED BY A CRUISER
DESIGNATED *RESOLUTE*.

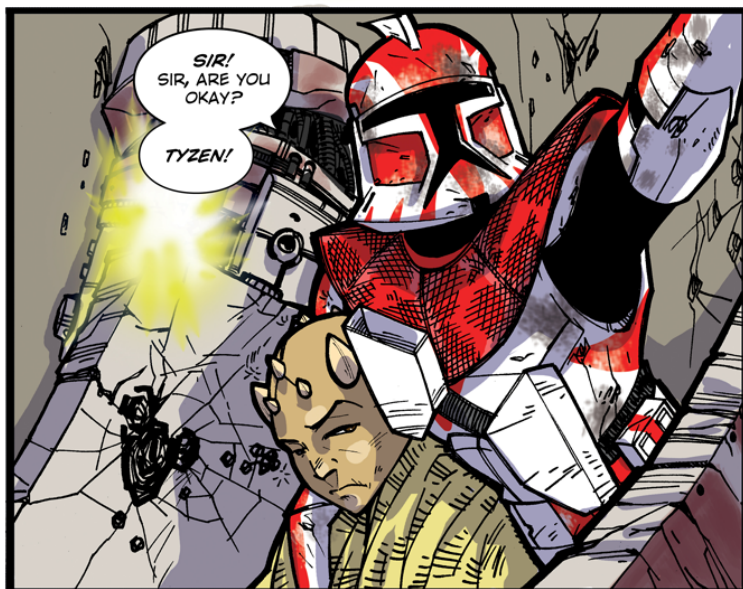
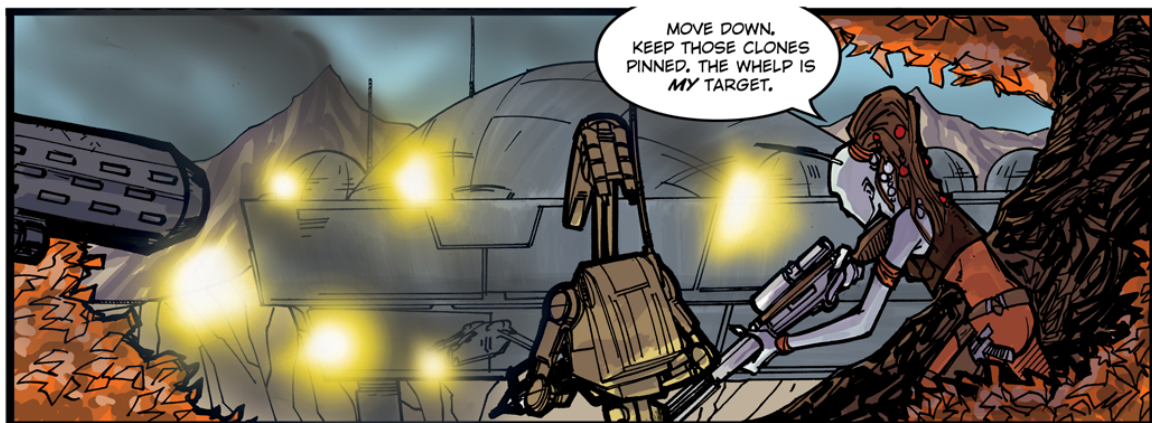


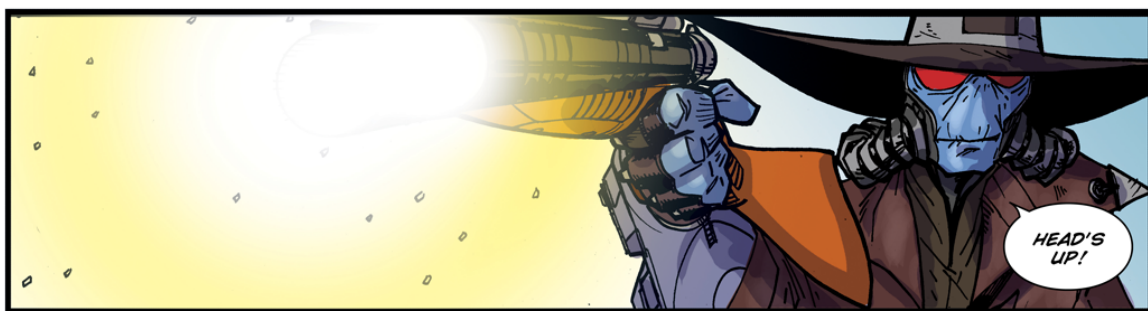
THAT CUTS
OUR SCHEDULE
SHORT. CATO MUST
HAVE SPILLED HER
GUTS. I'LL HAVE
TO RETURN *THAT*
FAVOR.

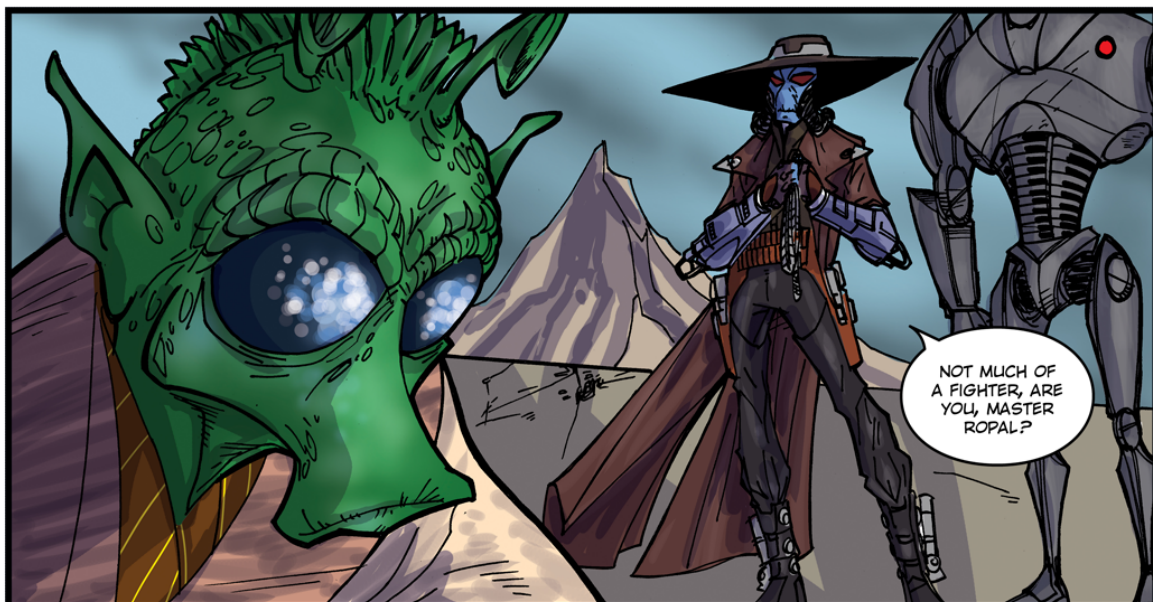
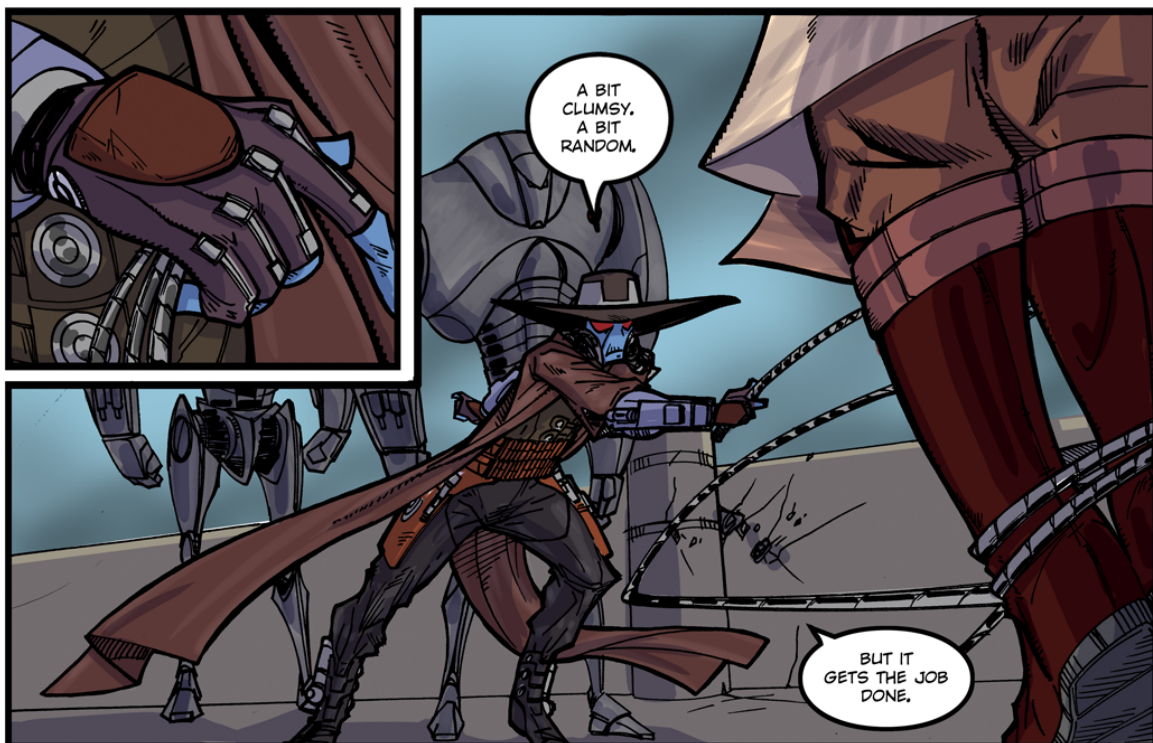
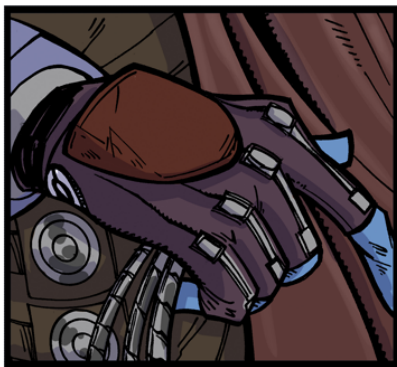
DEFENSIVE
FORMATION. DON'T
LET THEM PAST YOU.
I'M ALMOST DONE
WITH MY ERRAND.

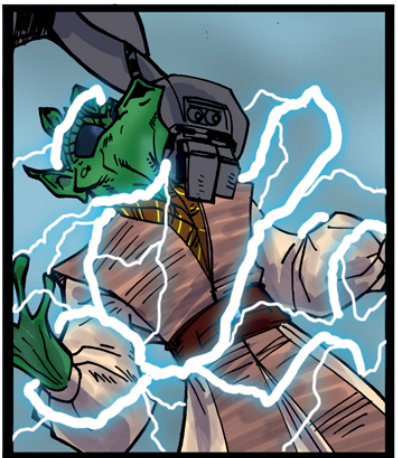
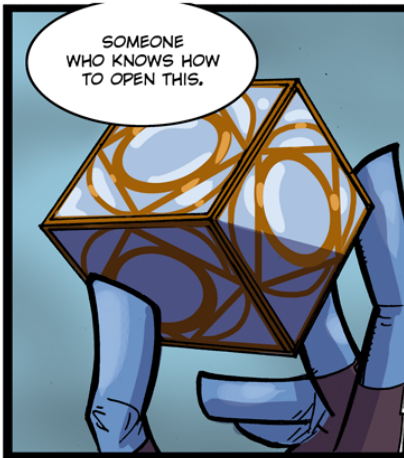
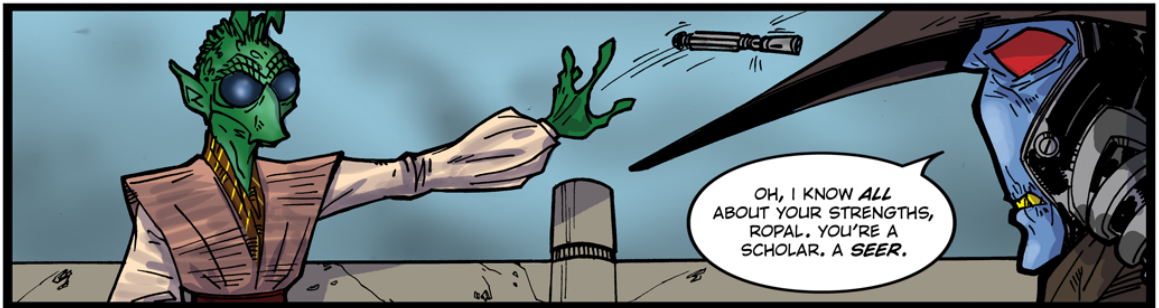


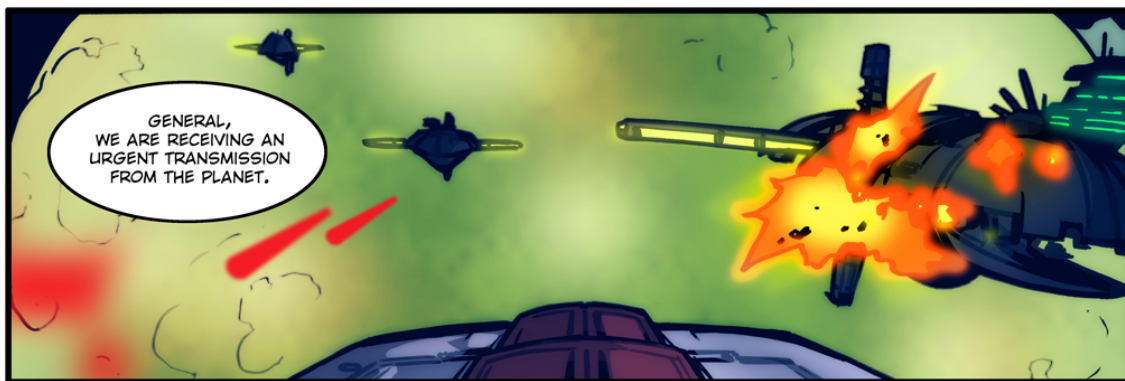
THIS
SHOULD NOT
TAKE LONG.

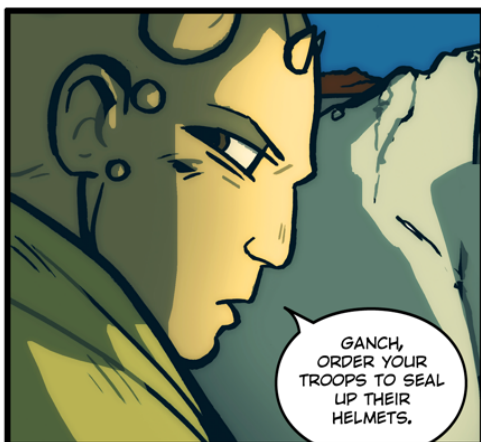
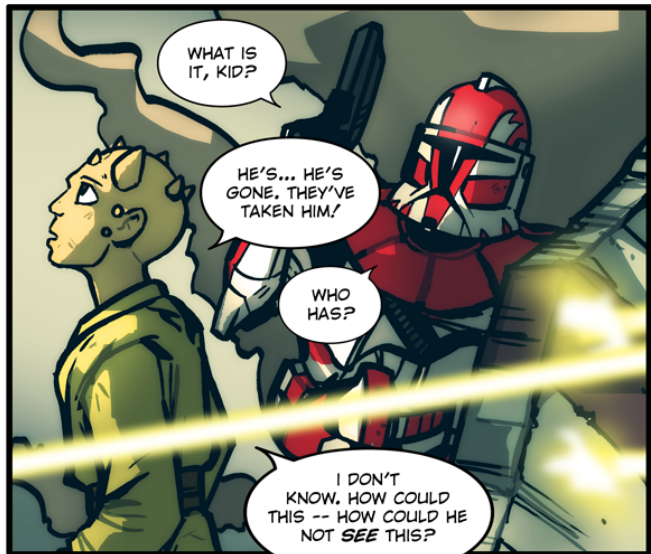


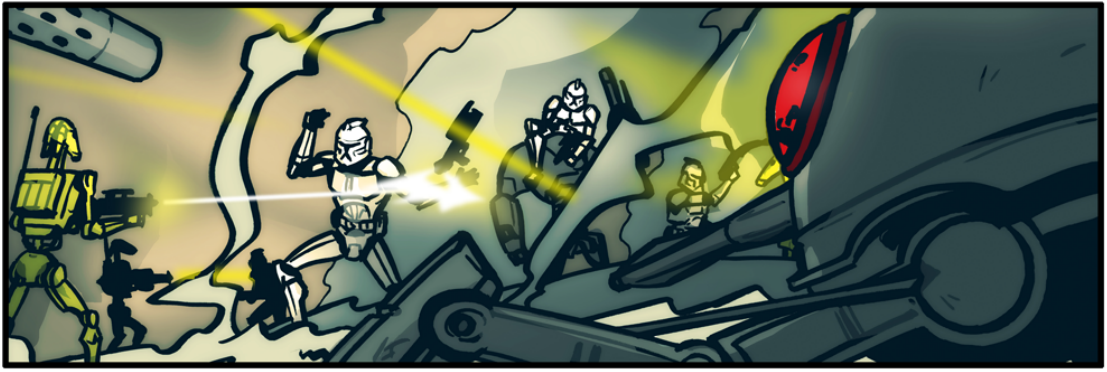


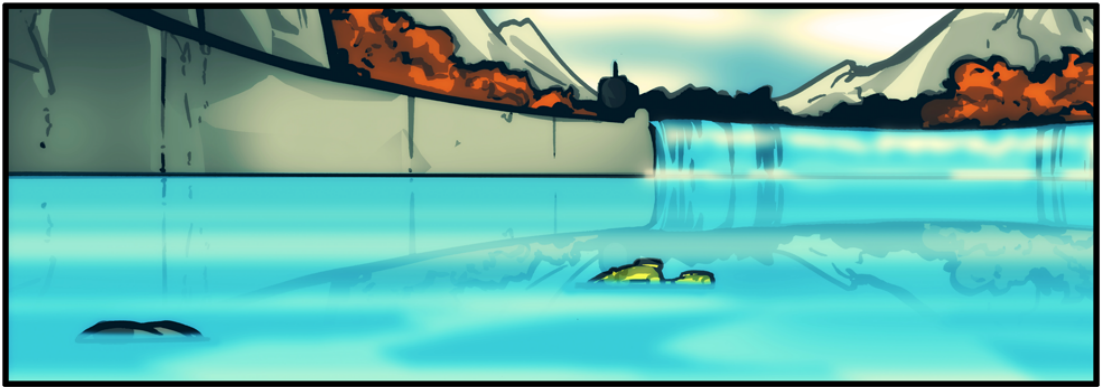
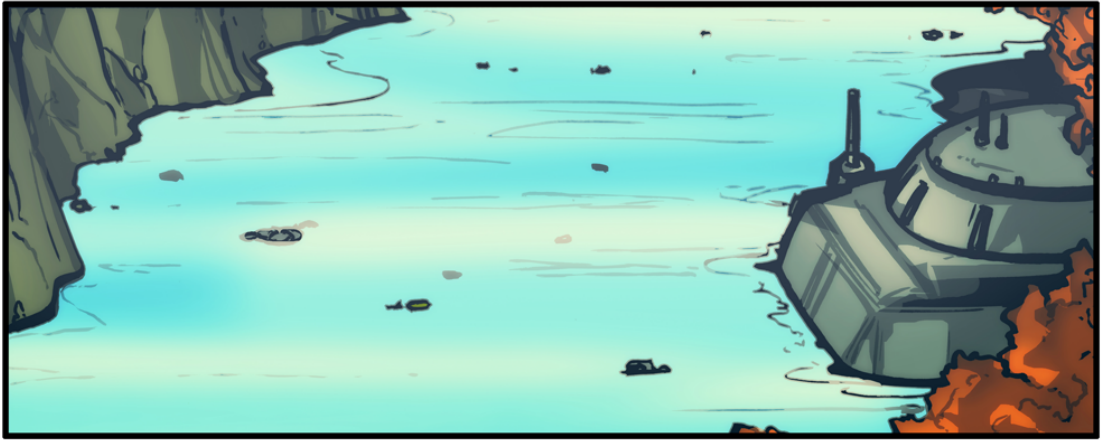




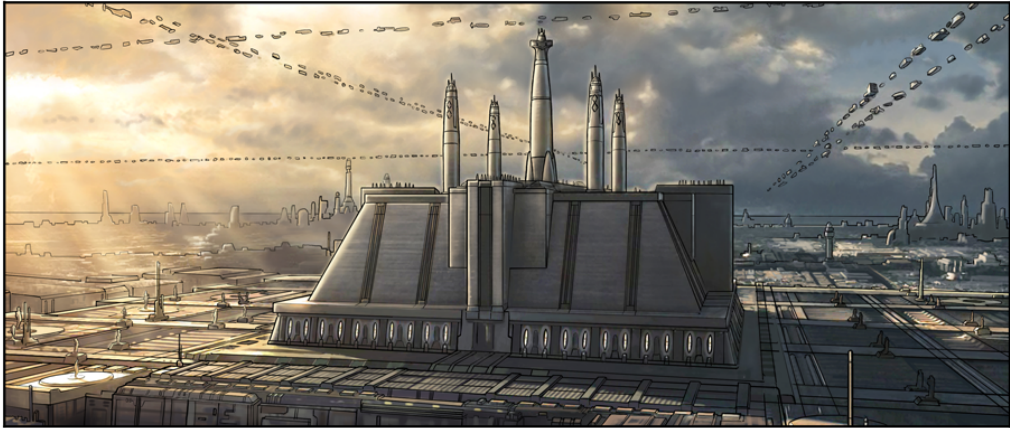




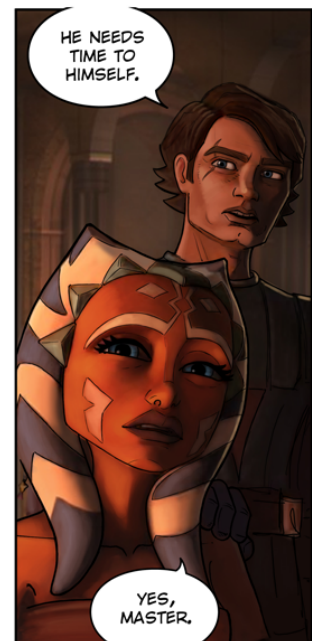
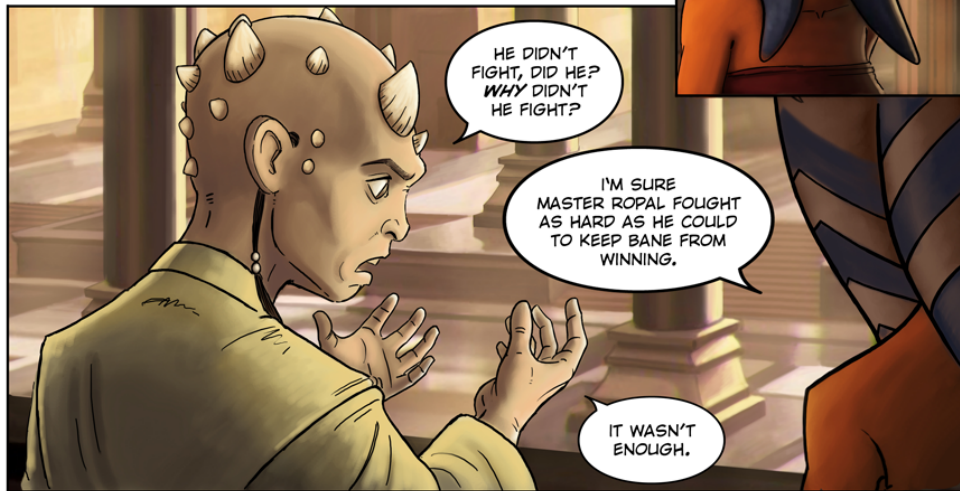


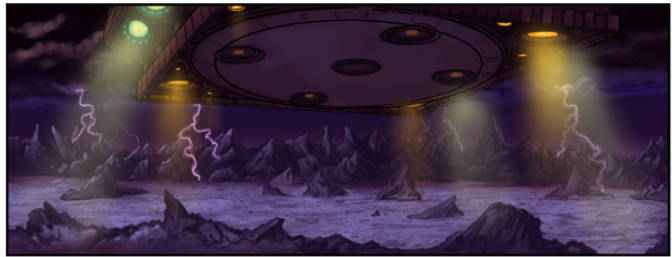
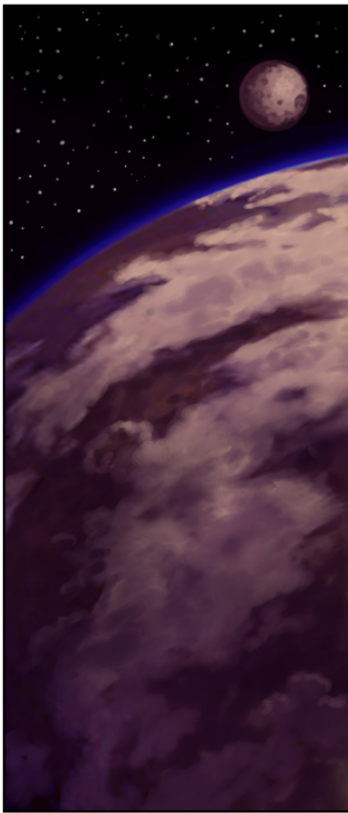




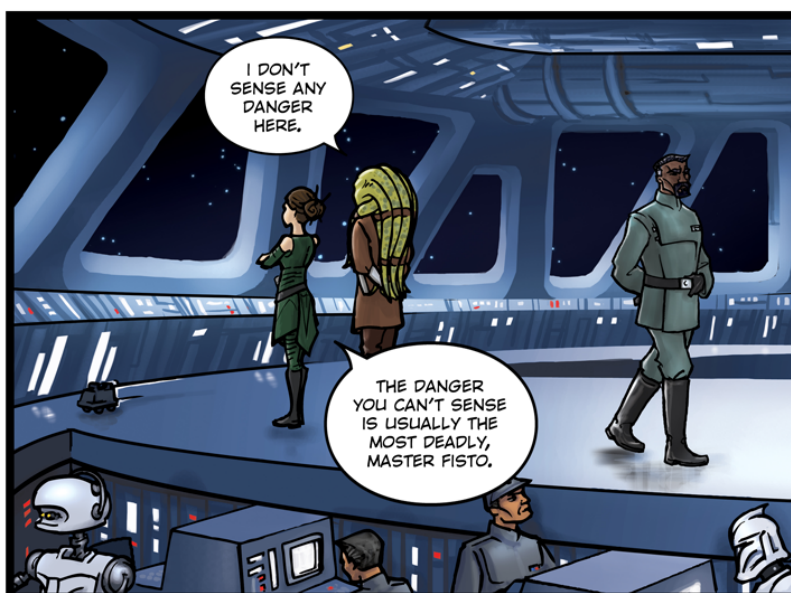


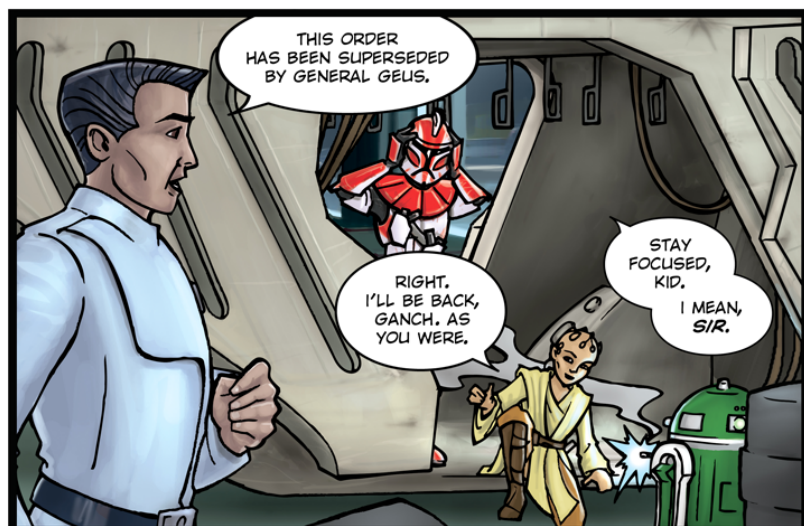
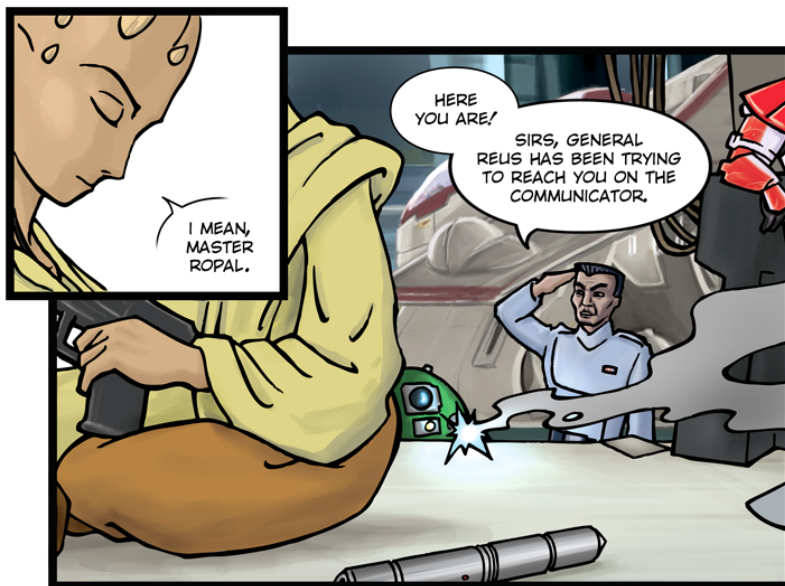
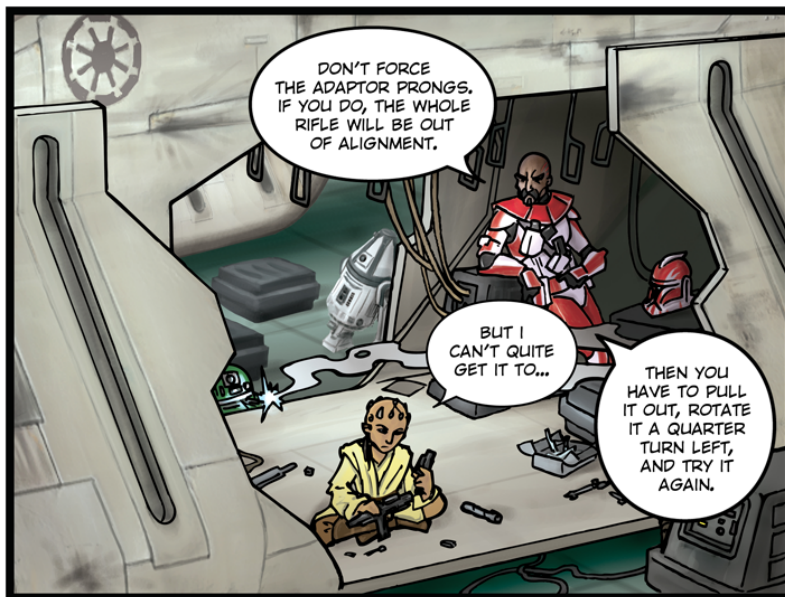


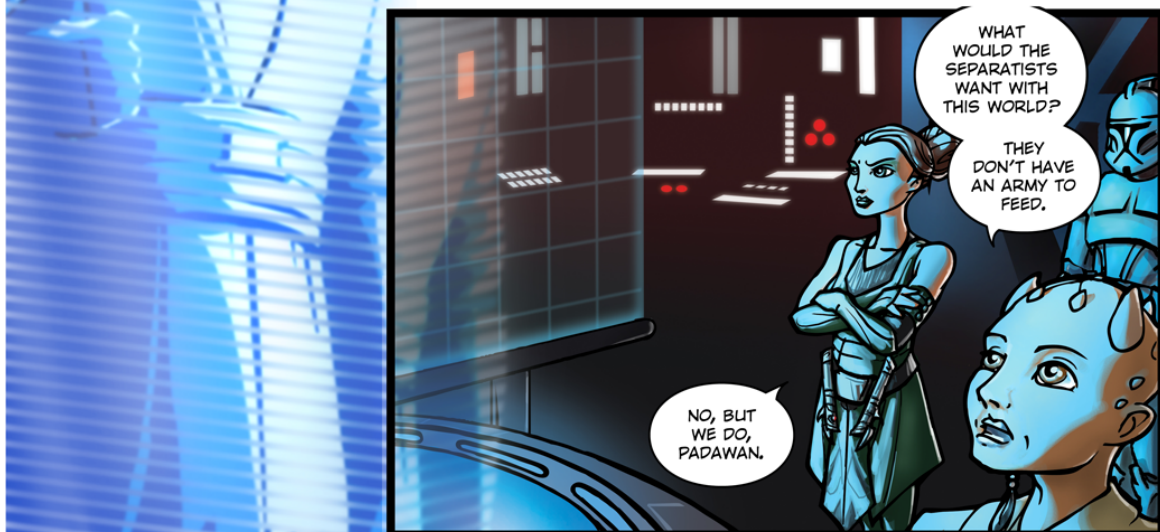
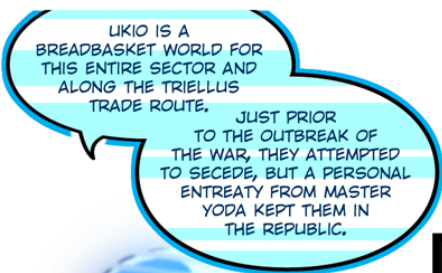
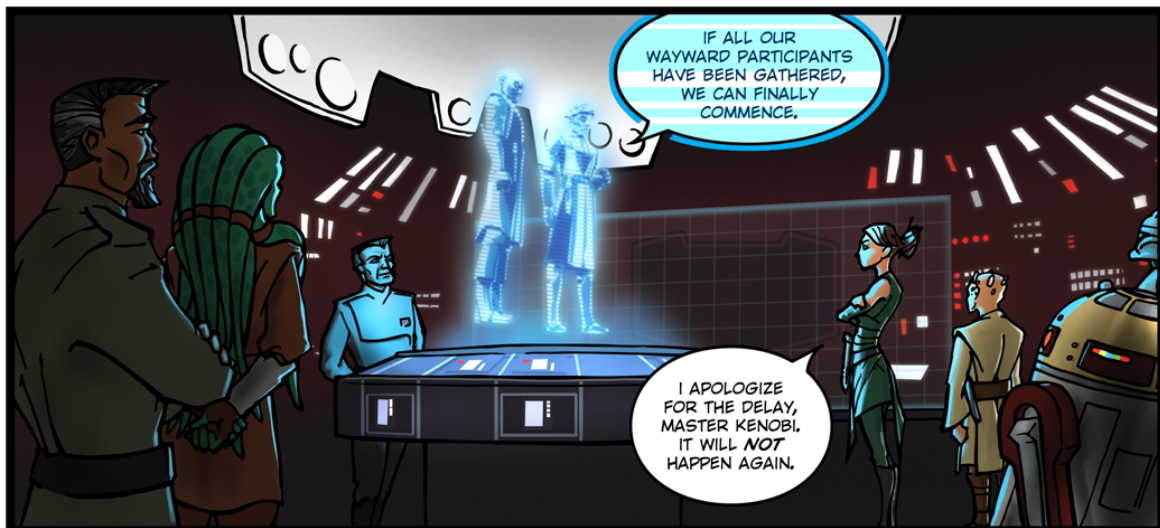


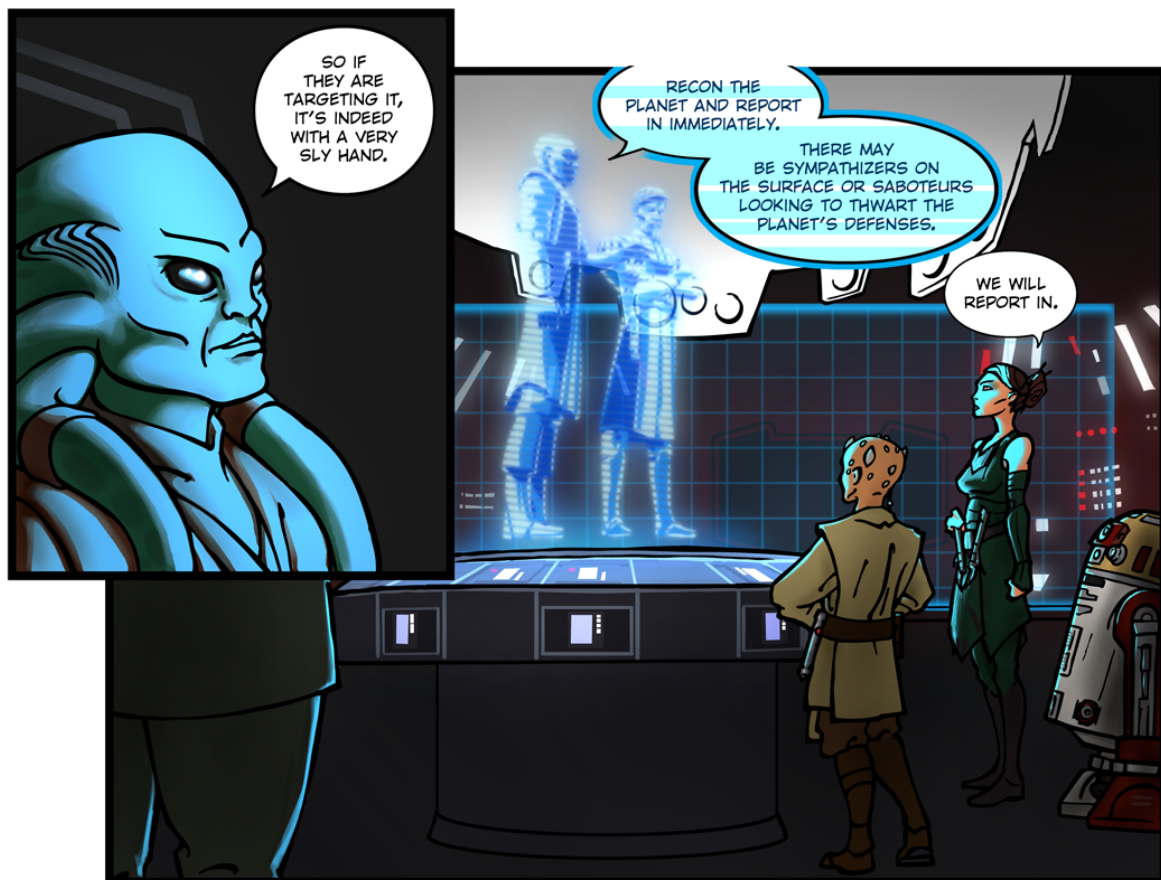
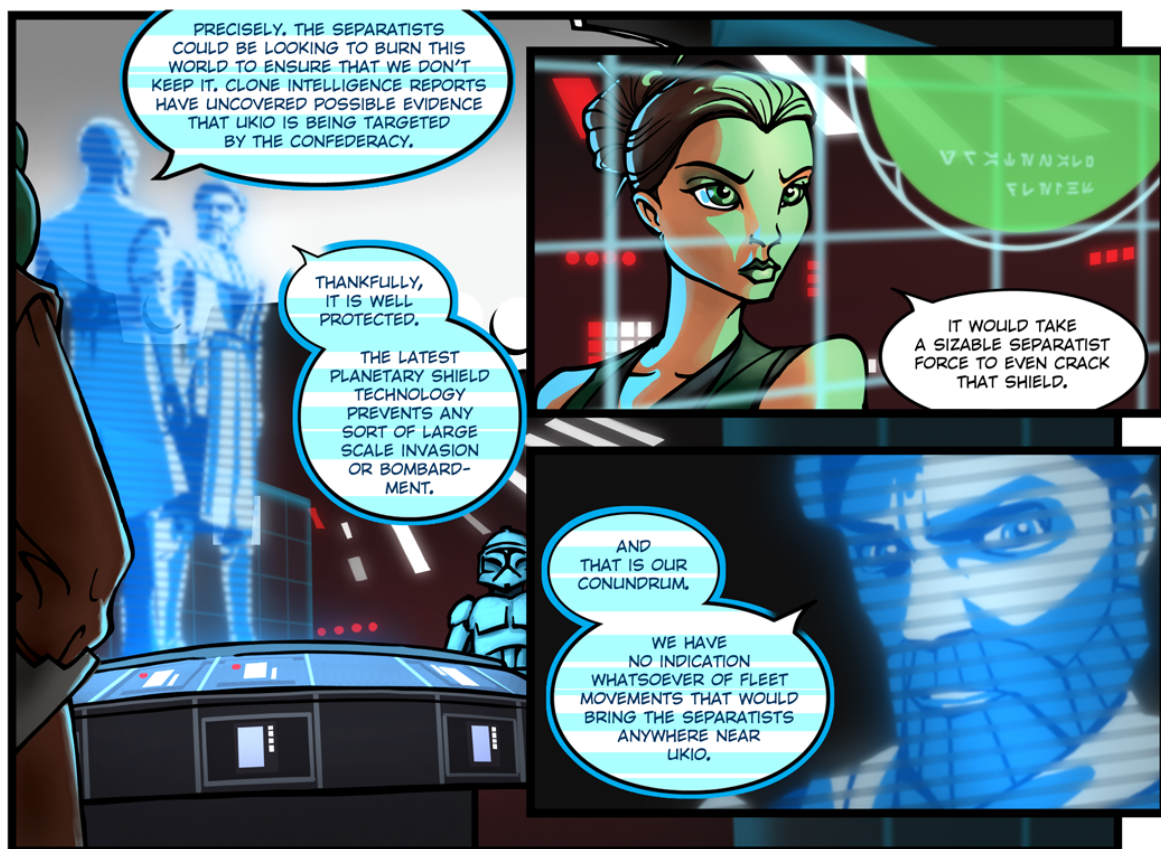


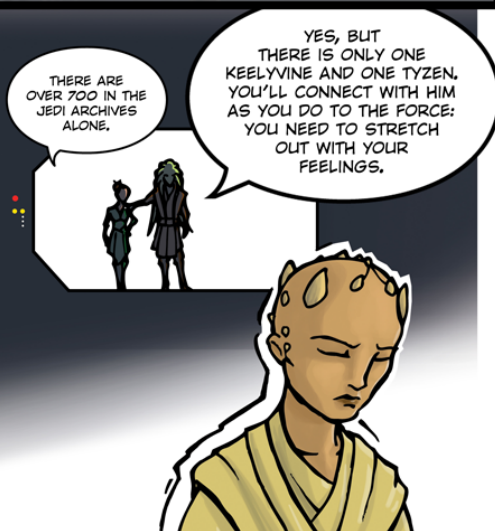
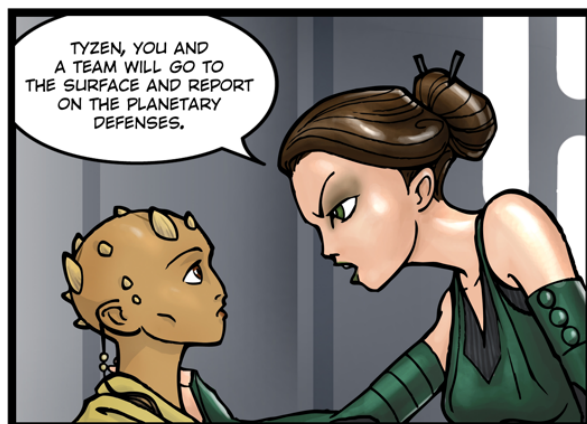


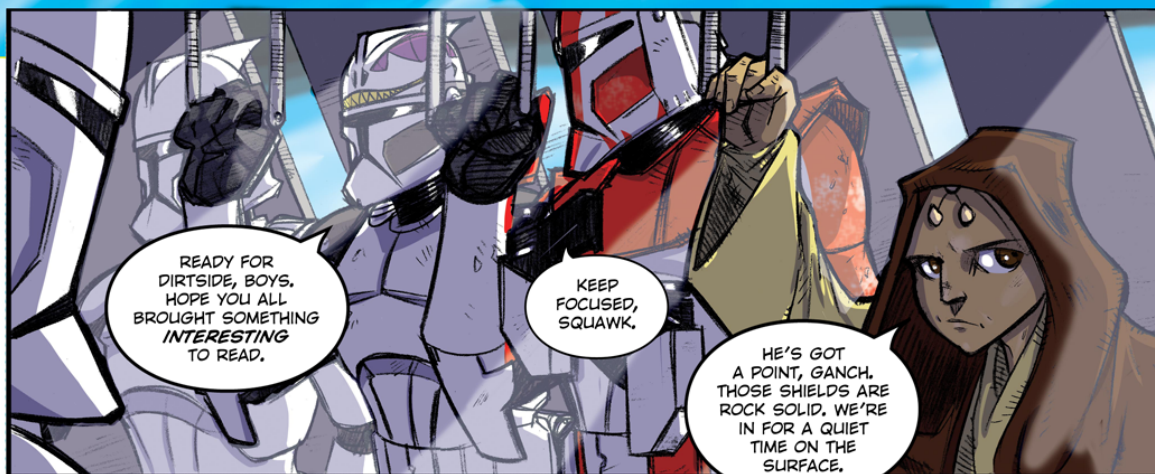
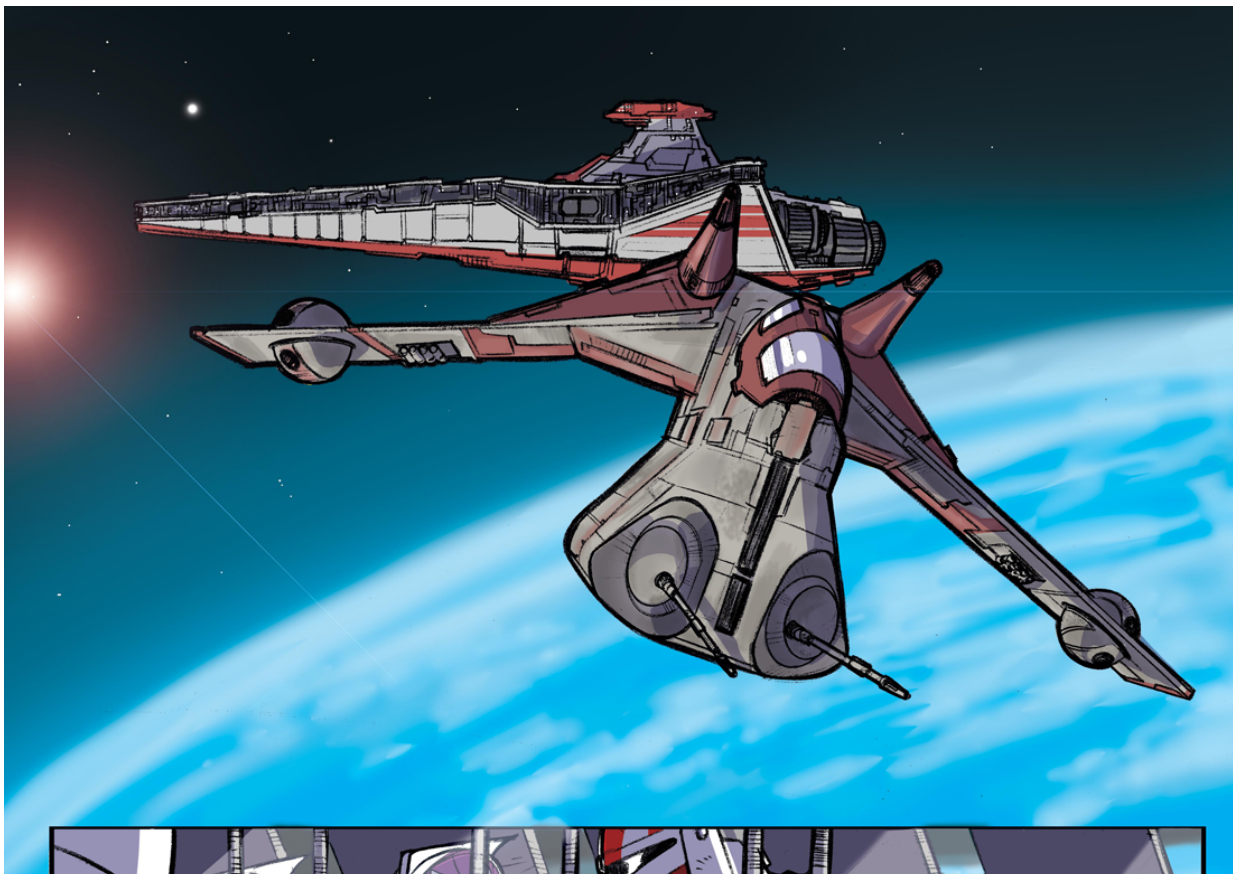












READY FOR DIRTSIDE, BOYS. HOPE YOU ALL BROUGHT SOMETHING INTERESTING TO READ.

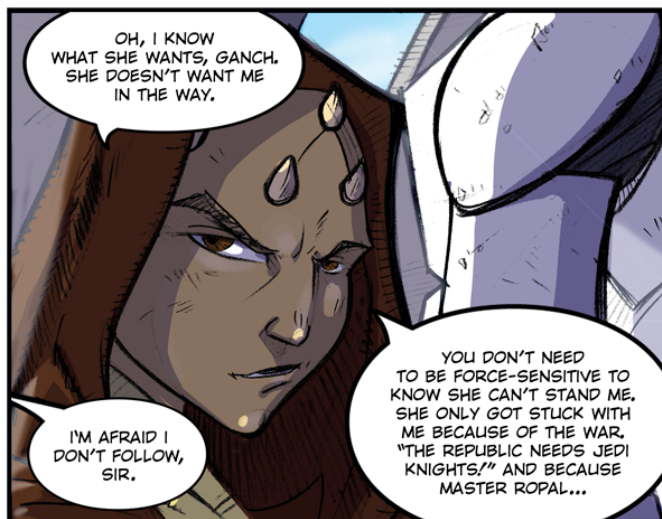
KEEP FOCUSED, SQUAWK.

HE'S GOT A POINT, GANCH. THOSE SHIELDS ARE ROCK SOLID. WE'RE IN FOR A QUIET TIME ON THE SURFACE.



YES, SIR. BUT THE GENERAL DOES WANT A TOP-TO-BOTTOM INSPECTION OF THE GROUND DEFENSES.

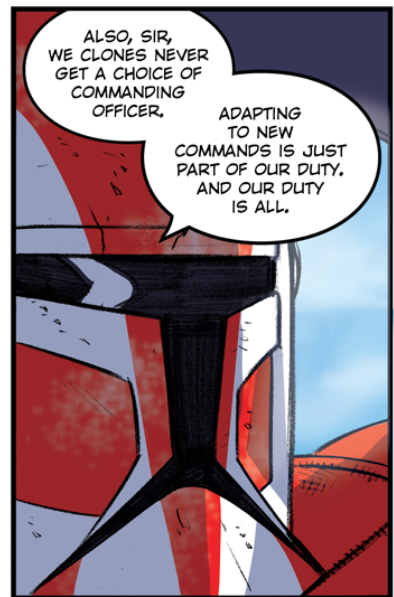
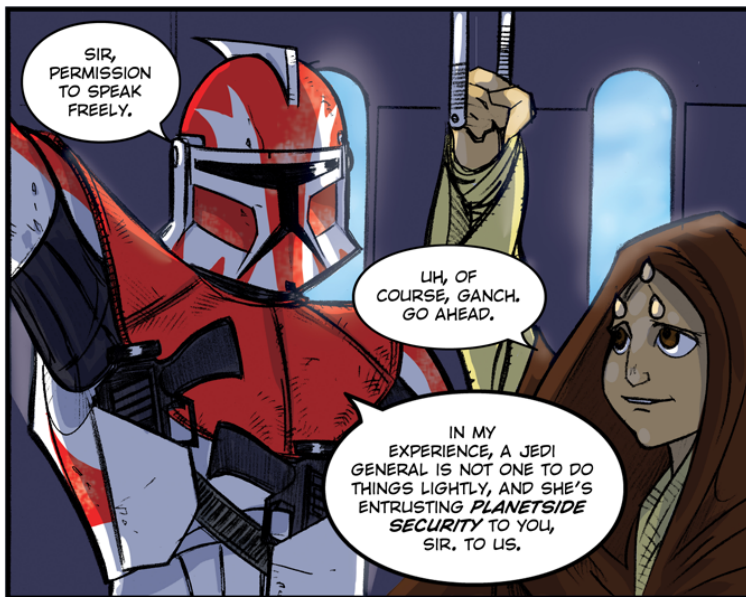
THAT'LL KEEP US BUSY.



OH, I KNOW WHAT SHE WANTS, GANCH. SHE DOESN'T WANT ME IN THE WAY.

I'M AFRAID I DON'T FOLLOW, SIR.

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE FORCE-SENSITIVE TO KNOW SHE CAN'T STAND ME. SHE ONLY GOT STUCK WITH ME BECAUSE OF THE WAR. "THE REPUBLIC NEEDS JEDI KNIGHTS," AND BECAUSE MASTER ROPAL...







SUCH
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR SUCH A
YOUNG AGE.
I AM, WELL....

IMPRESSED,
LIEGE?

YES,
THAT WORD
WILL DO.

YOUR
TROOPS ANSWER
WELL DESPITE
YOUR AGE?



ASK
THEM.

THE
COMMANDER'S
ACTUALLY OLDER
THAN I AM,
LIEGE.



LET'S GET
TO BUSINESS HERE,
LIEGE. YOU WILL ALLOW MY
TROOPS FULL ACCESS TO
YOUR SHIELD GENERATOR
ASSEMBLY SO WE CAN
SEE HOW YOU OPERATE
YOUR DEFENSES.

OF COURSE.
WE ARE PROUD OF
OUR DEFENSES
HERE.

WHILE I
WILL ACQUAINT
MYSELF WITH SOME
OF THE LOCAL
WORKERS.



WHAT? ARE YOU
SURE THAT'S WISE,
PADAWAN XEBEC?

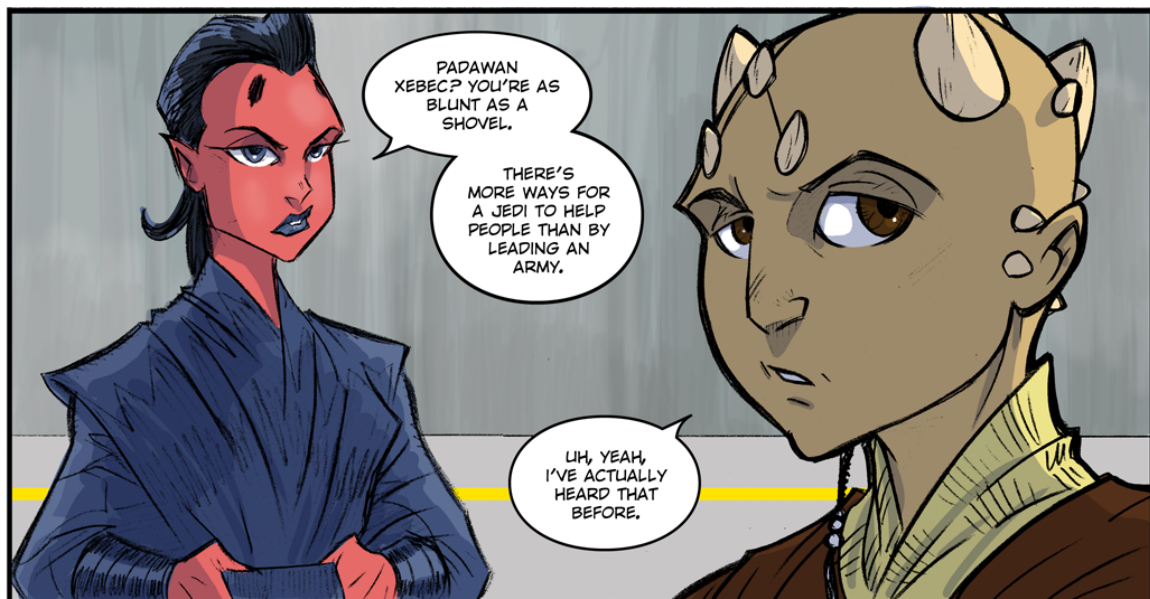
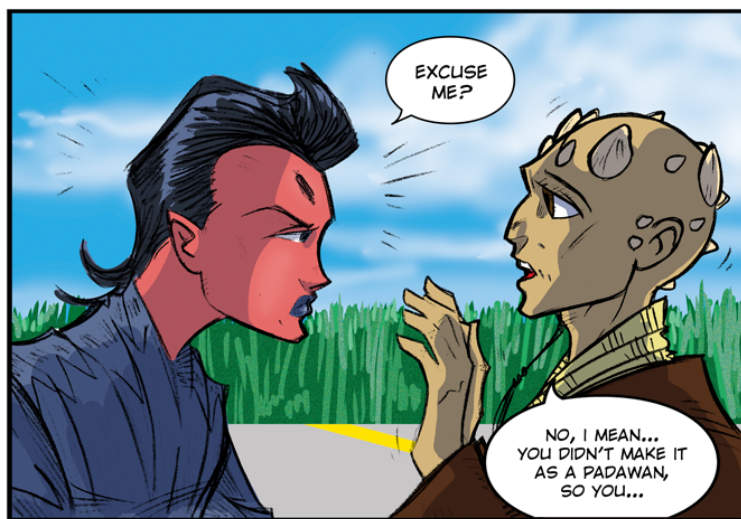
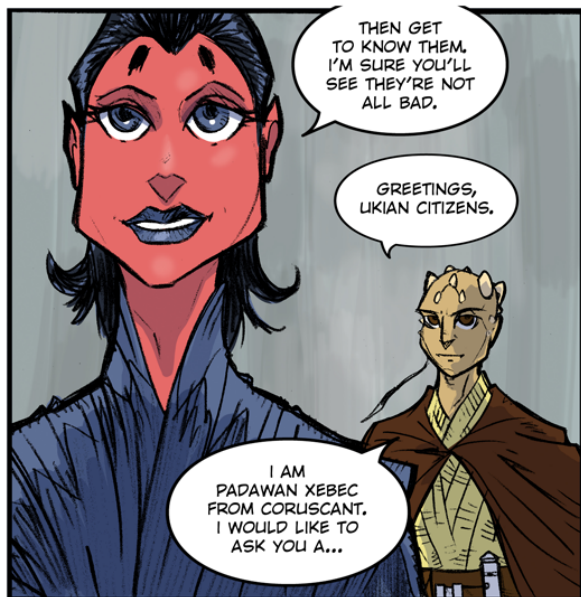


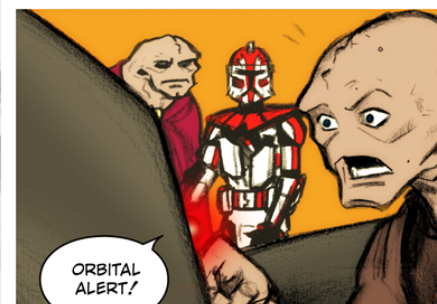
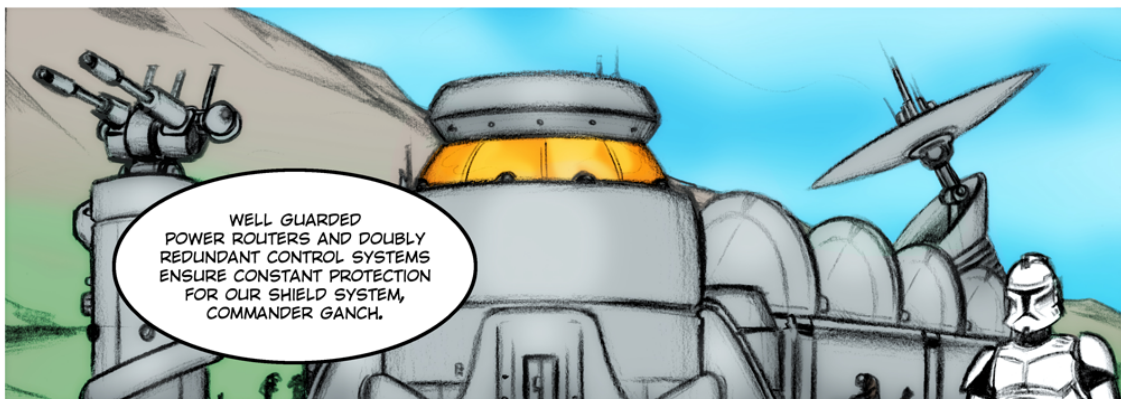
A WISE MASTER
ONCE TOLD ME THAT TO
KNOW A WORLD, YOU
MUST KNOW ITS
PEOPLE.

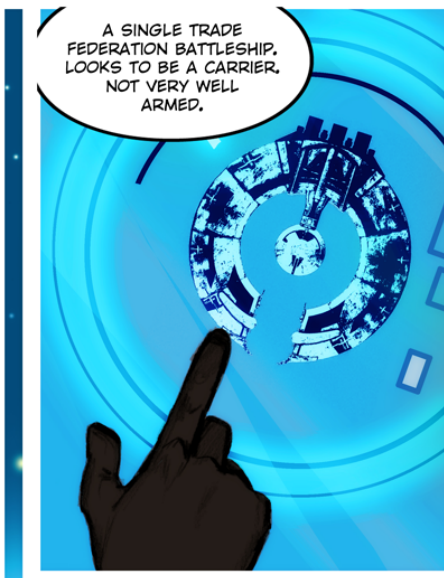
NOW, LIEGE,
ON TO THE
INSPECTION.

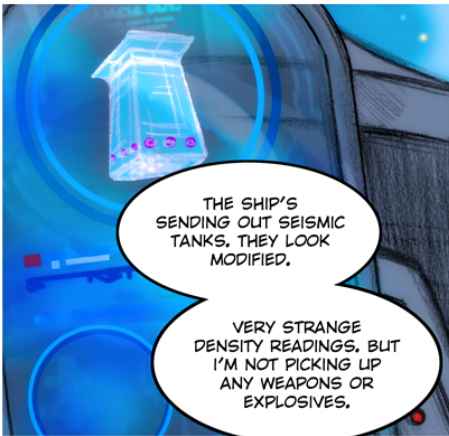
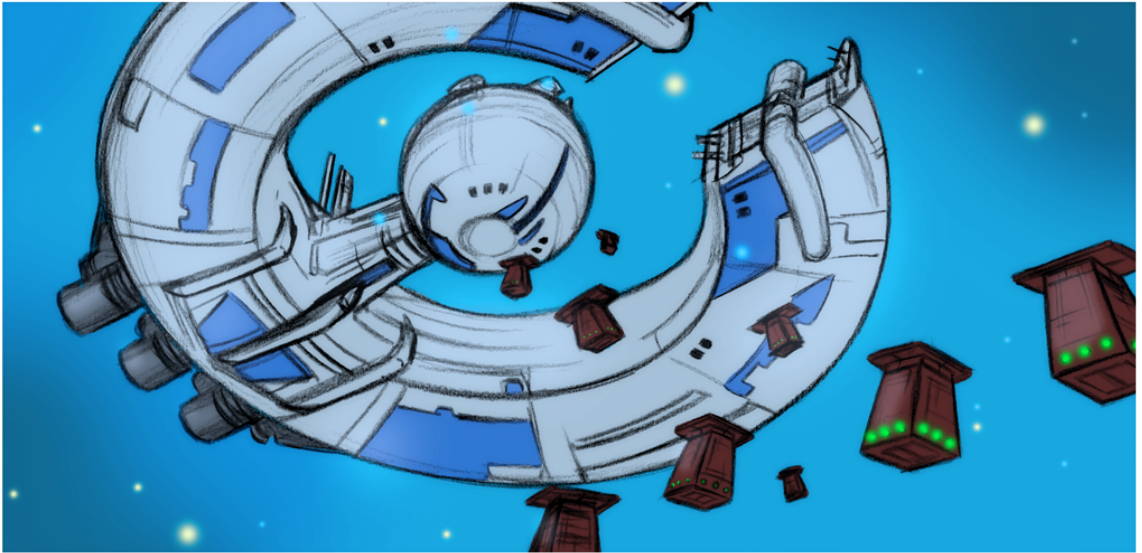
ERRR,
YES...





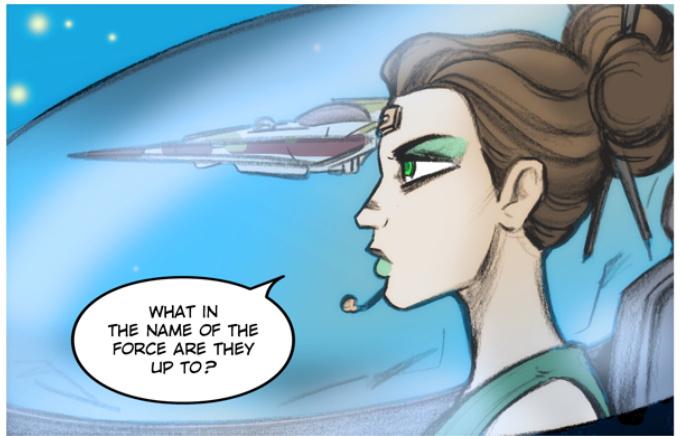




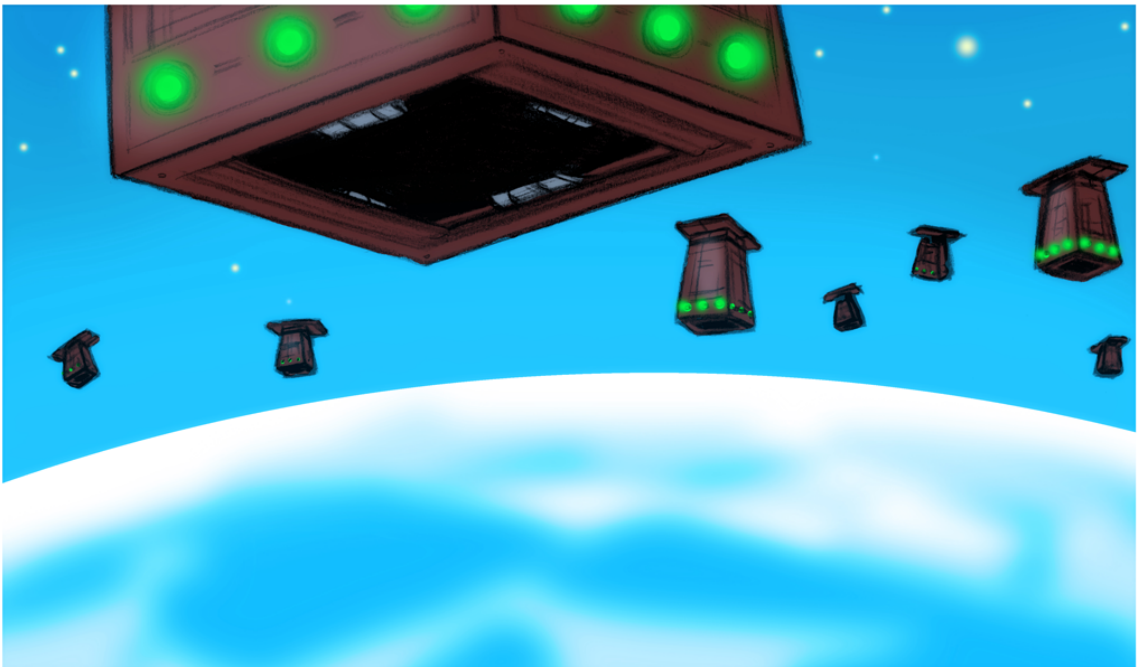


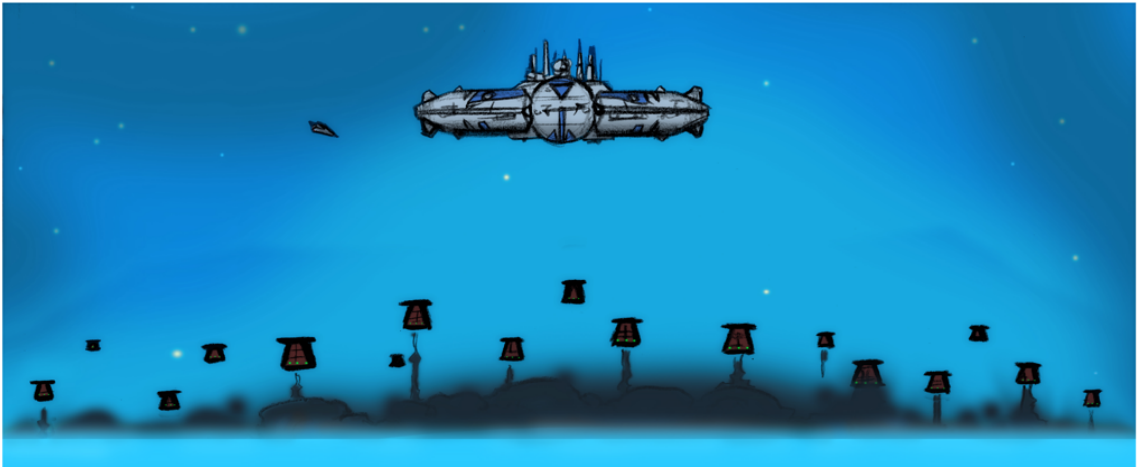
THE SHIP'S
SENDING OUT SEISMIC
TANKS. THEY LOOK
MODIFIED.

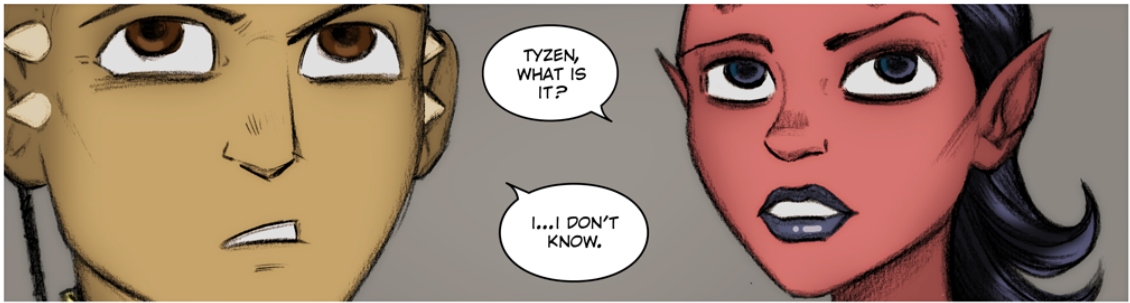
VERY STRANGE
DENSITY READINGS. BUT
I'M NOT PICKING UP
ANY WEAPONS OR
EXPLOSIVES.



WHAT IN
THE NAME OF THE
FORCE ARE THEY
UP TO?











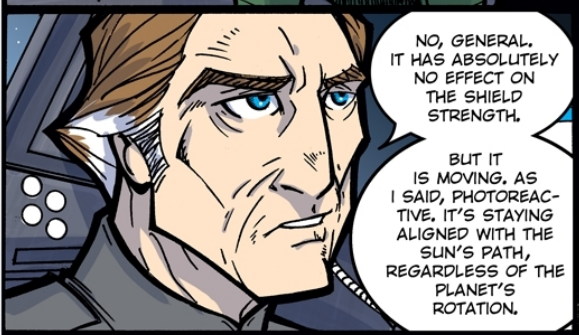
WE'VE
CONFIRMED THE
SUBSTANCE TO BE SOIL
FROM THE MOORJA BADLANDS,
ADMIRAL. IT'S AN ELECTRO-
STATIC COMPOUND WITH
PHOTOREACTIVE
PROPERTIES.



IN PLAIN
BASIC,
CAPTAIN?

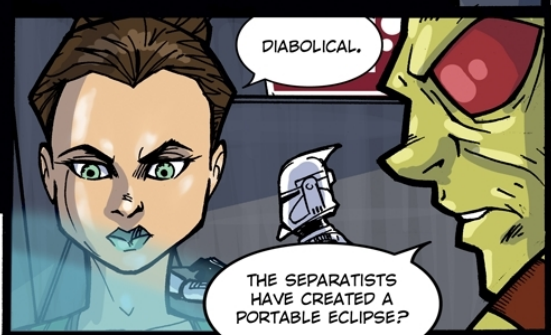
THE MATERIAL
CLINGS TO THE
SHIELDS LIKE FILINGS
TO A MAGNET.

IS IT DOING
ANY DAMAGE TO THE
SHIELDS? CREATING A WEAK
POINT, PERHAPS?



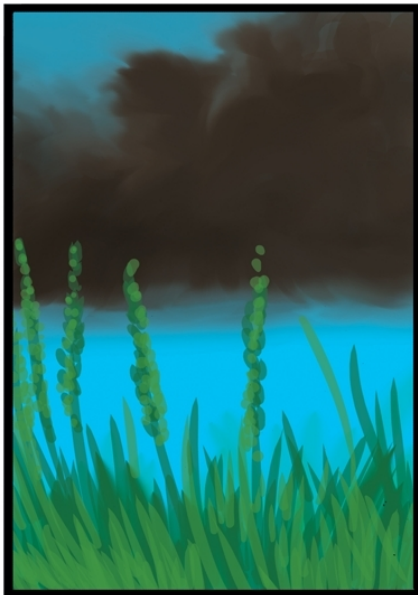
NO, GENERAL.
IT HAS ABSOLUTELY
NO EFFECT ON
THE SHIELD
STRENGTH.

BUT IT
IS MOVING. AS
I SAID, PHOTOREAC-
TIVE. IT'S STAYING
ALIGNED WITH THE
SUN'S PATH,
REGARDLESS OF THE
PLANET'S
ROTATION.



DIABOLICAL.

THE SEPARATISTS
HAVE CREATED A
PORTABLE ECLIPSE?





THIS IS INFURIATING!
DO WE HAVE A SIGNAL YET?
I CAN'T WORK IN THE
DARK LIKE THIS!

LIEGE, WE HAVE
SOMETHING. IT'S WEAK,
BUT WE'VE REACHED THE
REPUBLIC CRUISERS
IN ORBIT.



WHAT IS GOING ON UP
THERE? WE'VE BEEN PLUNGED
INTO NIGHT HERE FOR NEARLY
AN HOUR!

LIEGE, THERE IS
A SEPARATIST SHIP IN
ORBIT THAT HAS INTRODUCED
AN OCCLUDING ELEMENT
INTO YOUR ATMOSPHERE.

THEN STOP
IT! GET RID OF IT!
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE HERE
FOR, ISN'T IT?



IT ISN'T THAT SIMPLE.
THE SEPARATISTS ARE USING
YOUR SHIELDS AGAINST YOU.
THIS CLOUD IS ADHERING
TO THEM.

THIS COULD
RUIN US!

MASTER JEDI, HAVE
YOU ANY IDEA OF JUST HOW
ENGINEERED OUR CROPS ARE?



THEY HAVE
VERY SPECIFIC
REQUIREMENTS.
THE LOSS OF ANY
MORE SUNLIGHT
CAN RUIN US!

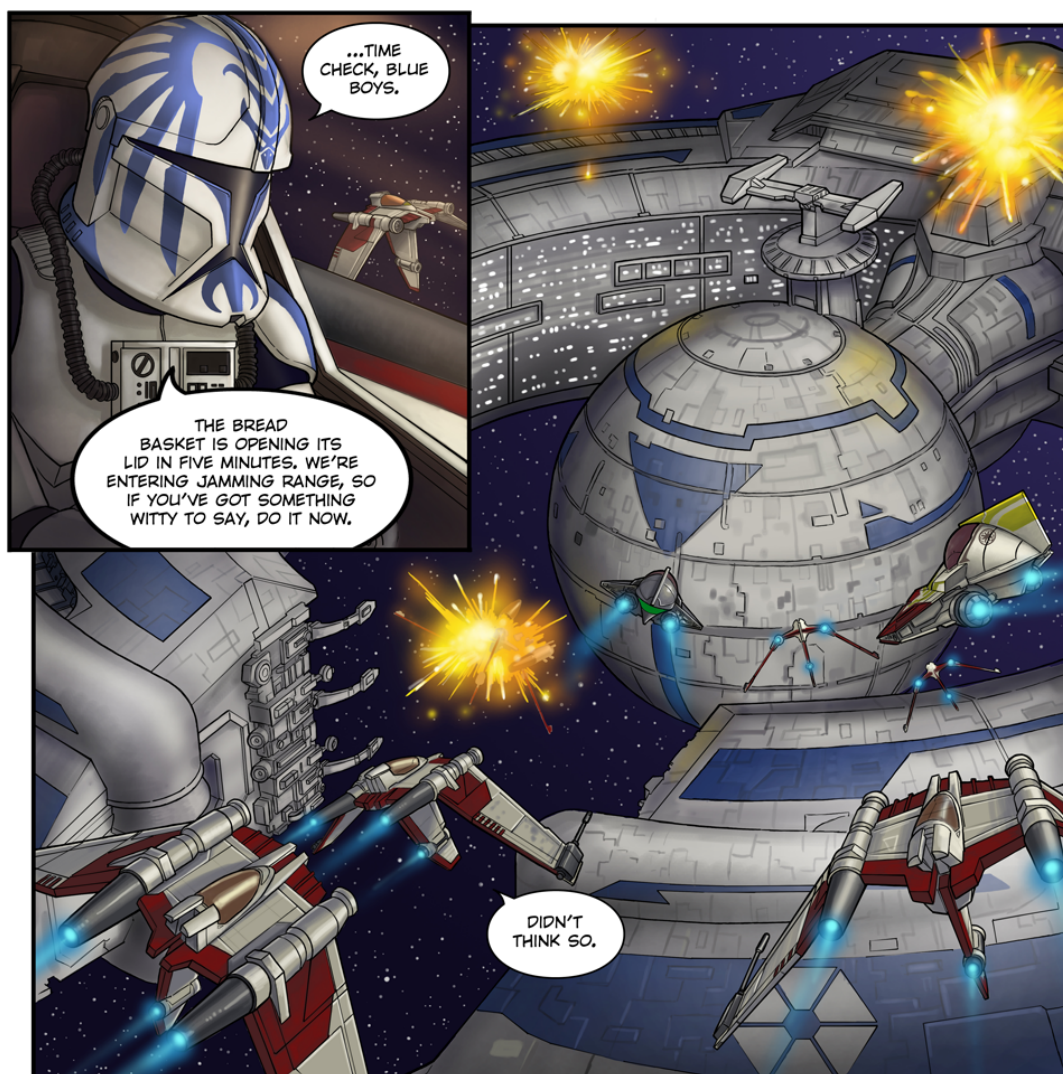
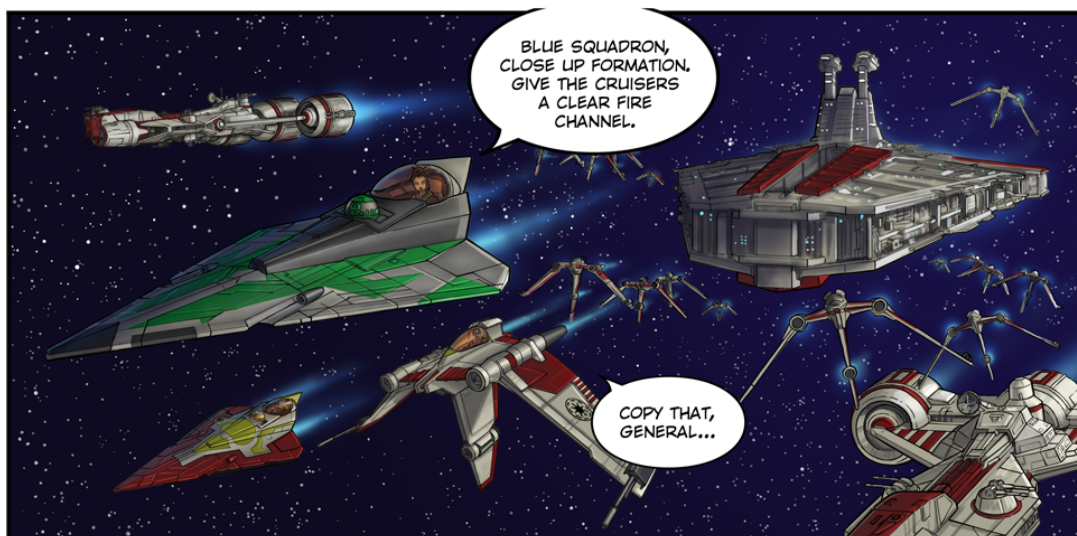


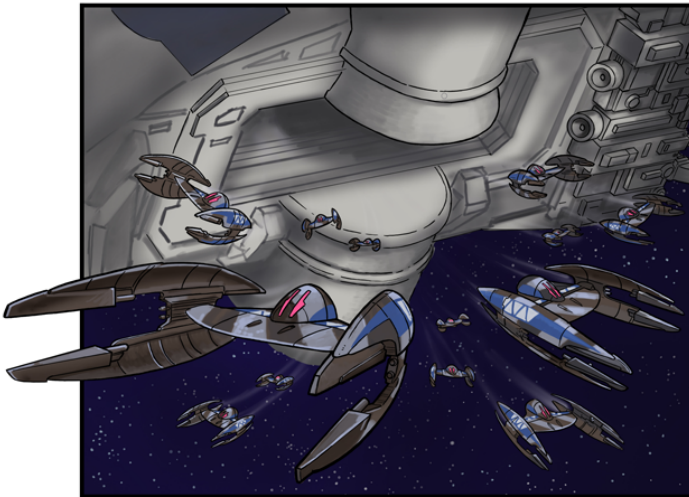
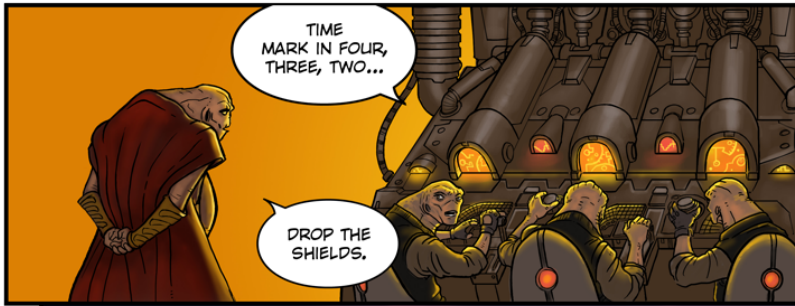
WHAT IF
WE DROP THE
SHIELDS?

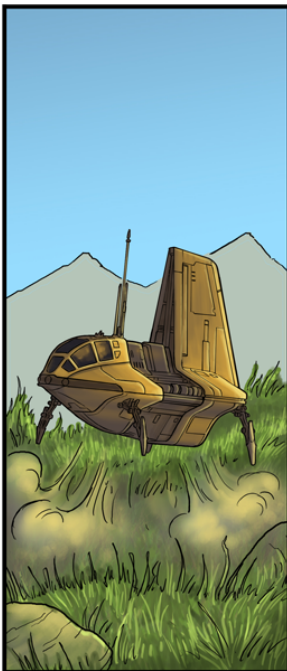
I WOULDN'T
ADVISE THAT,
SIR.

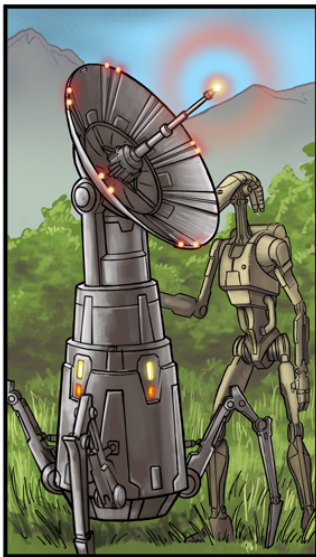
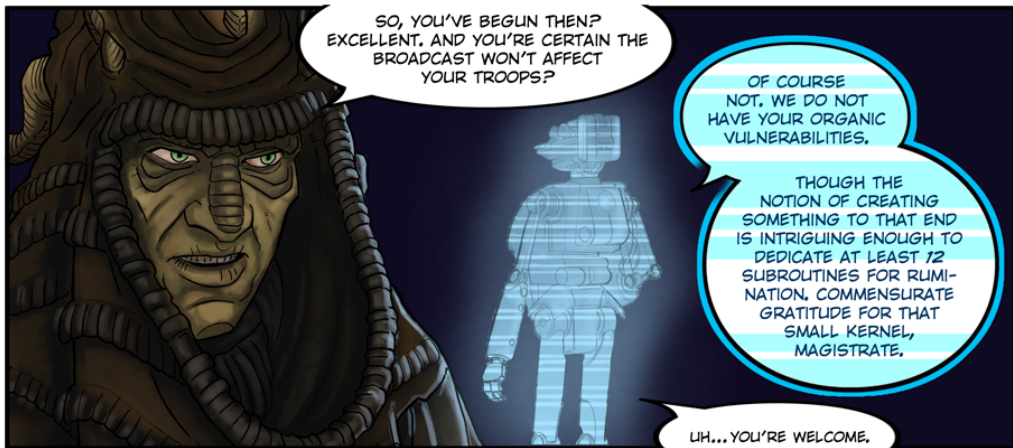
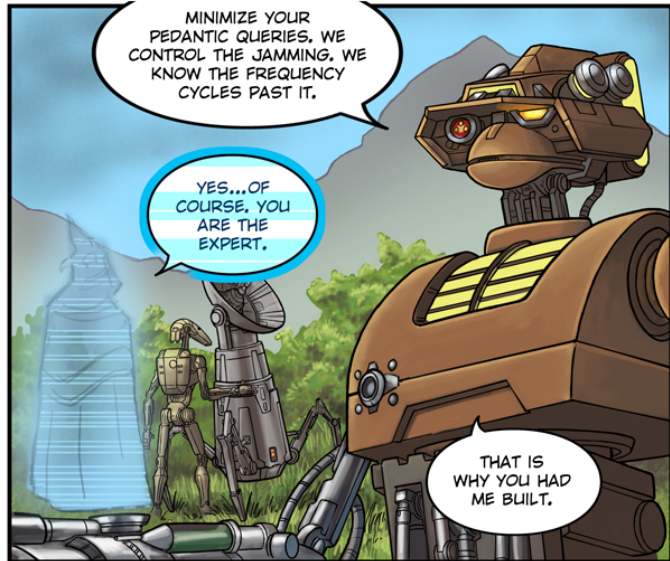
THAT'S PRECISELY
WHAT THE SEPARATISTS
WANT, LIEGE!

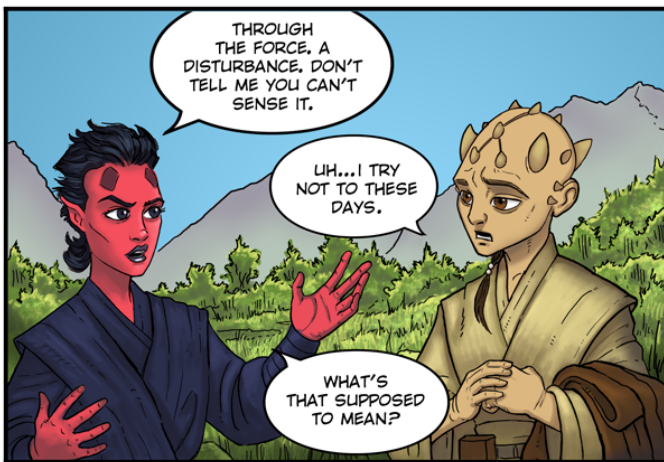


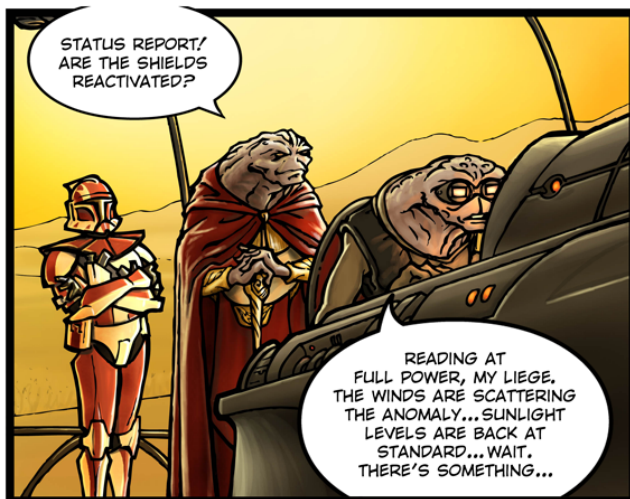


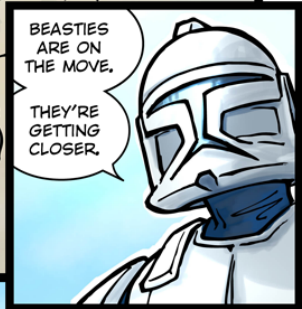
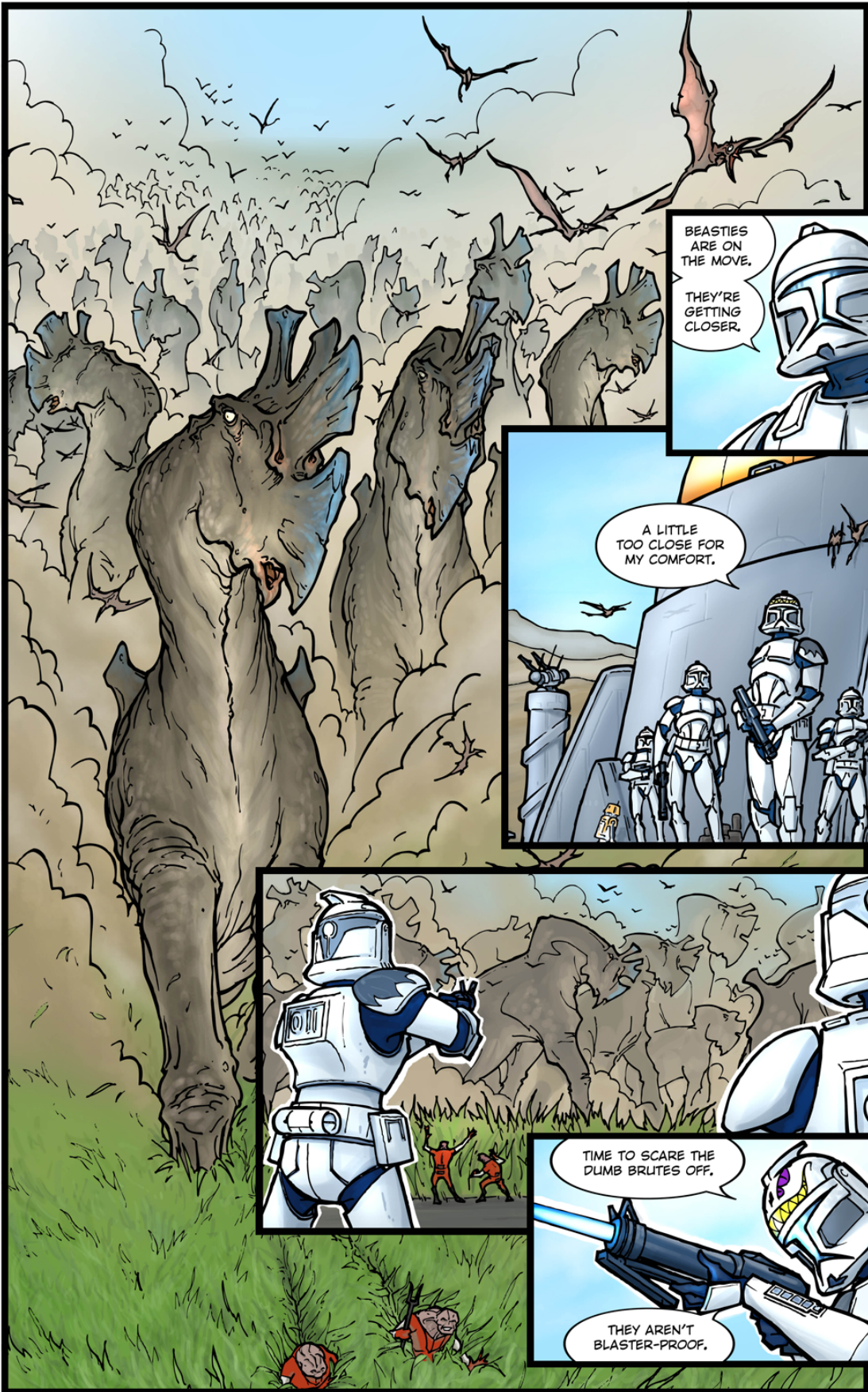










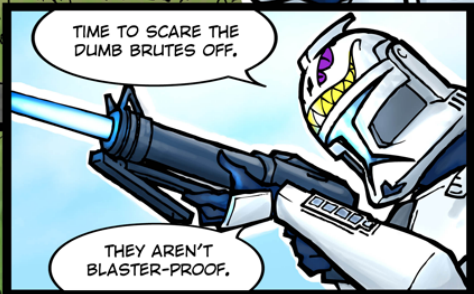
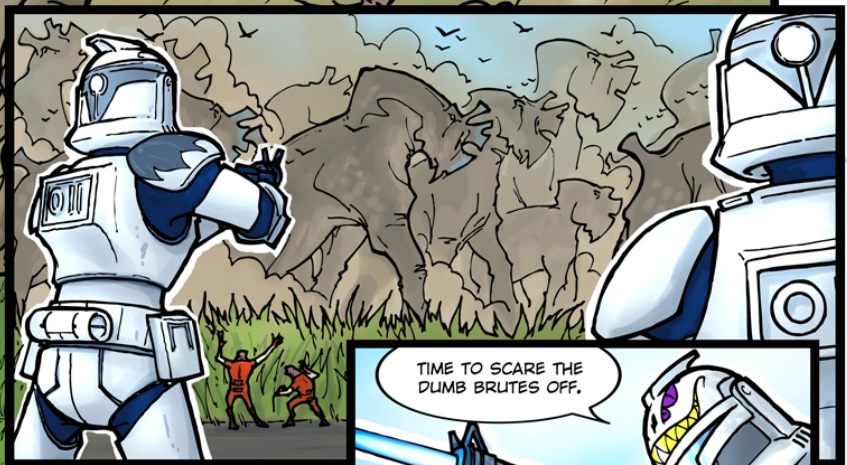


BEASTIES
ARE ON
THE MOVE.

THEY'RE
GETTING
CLOSER.

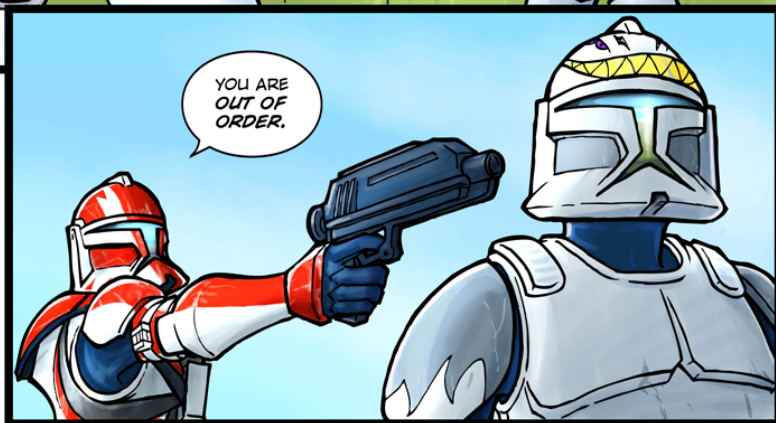
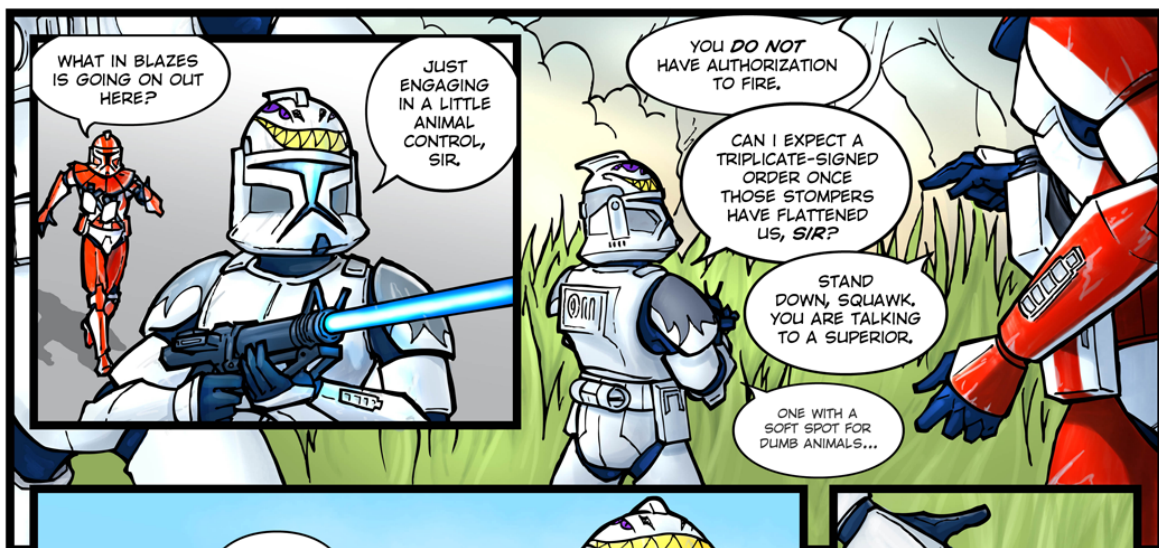


A LITTLE
TOO CLOSE FOR
MY COMFORT.



TIME TO SCARE THE
DUMB BRUTES OFF.

THEY AREN'T
BLASTER-PROOF.





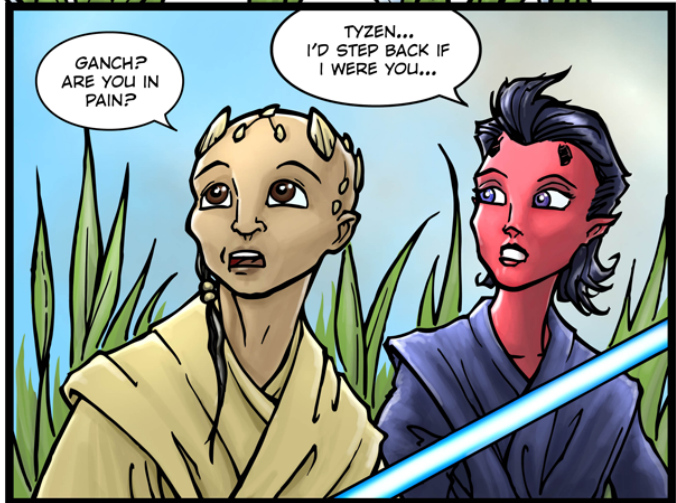
TYZEN!

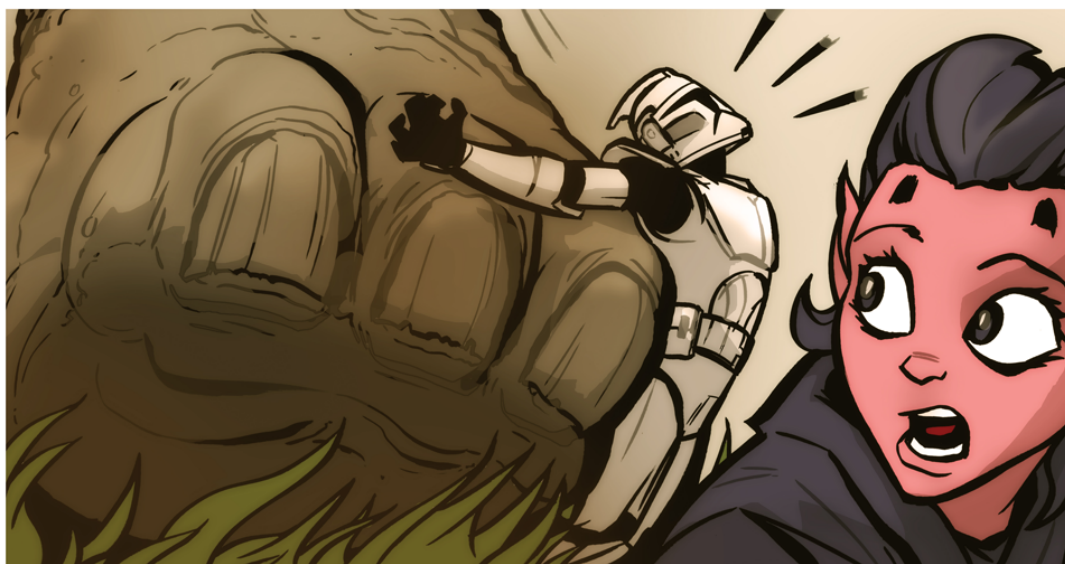
TYZEN,
COME IN. BLAST,
NOTHING.

GOOD TO
SEE A LITTLE CONCERN
FOR YOUR PADAWAN,
KEELYVINE.

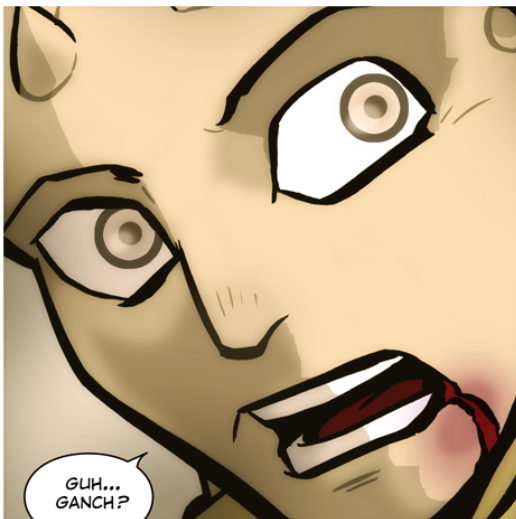
OF COURSE!

IF THE
SEPARATISTS
HAVE MADE A
LANDING, HE
MUST STOP
THEM!



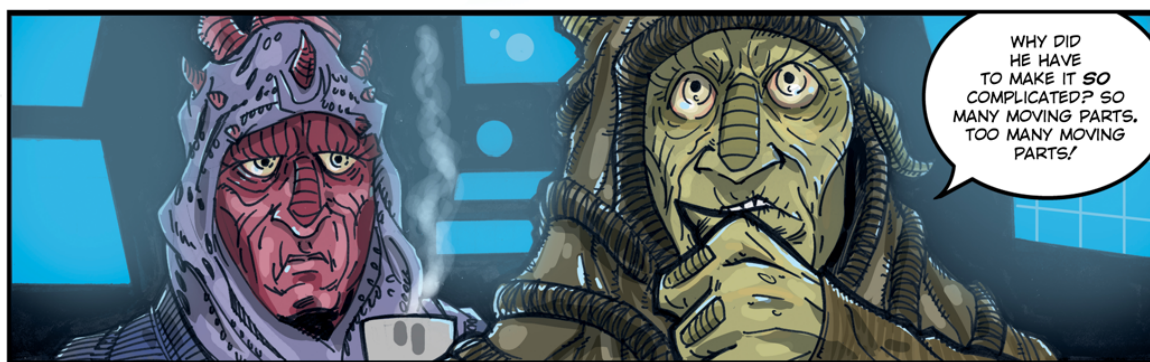


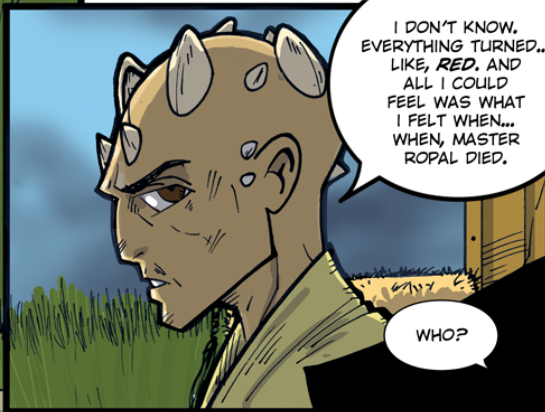
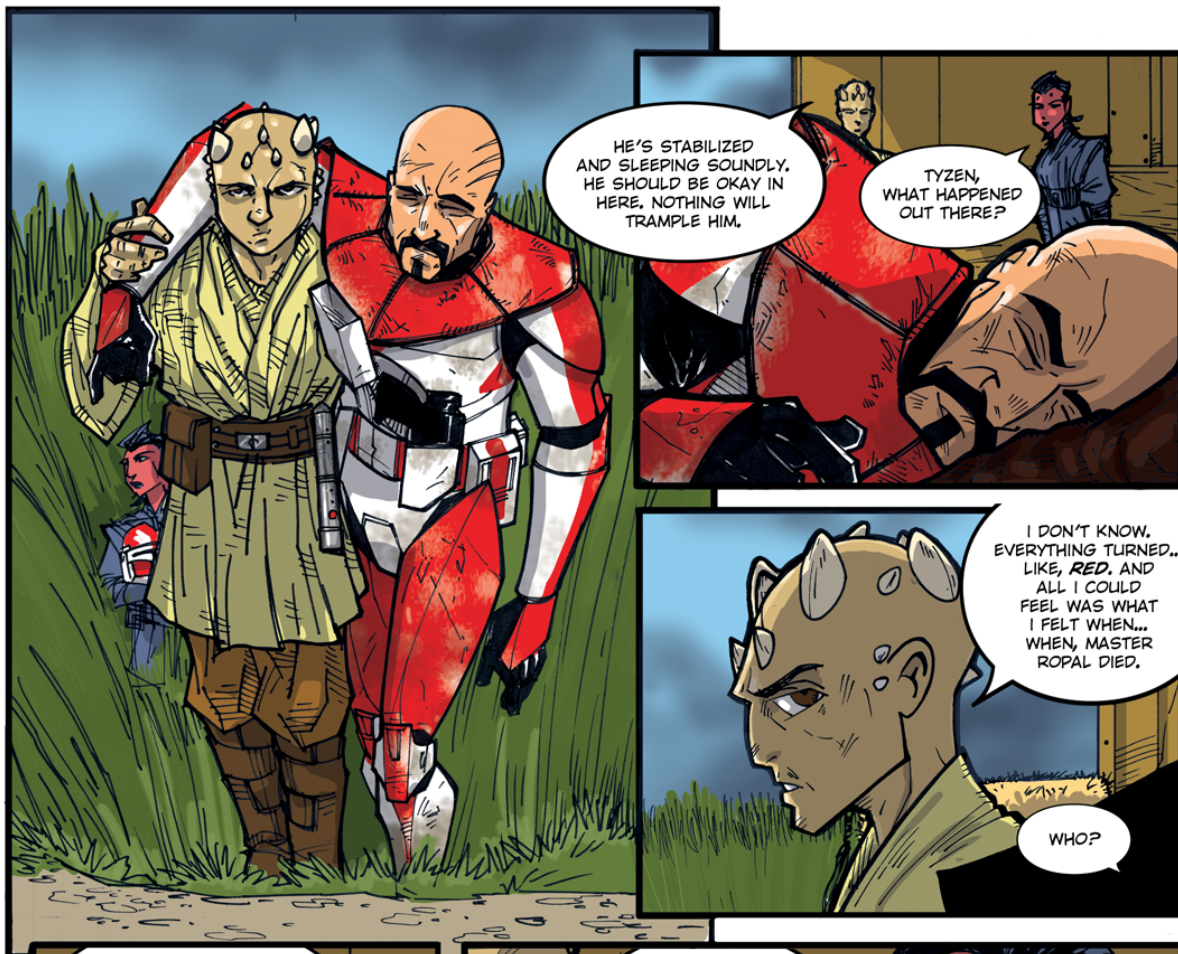


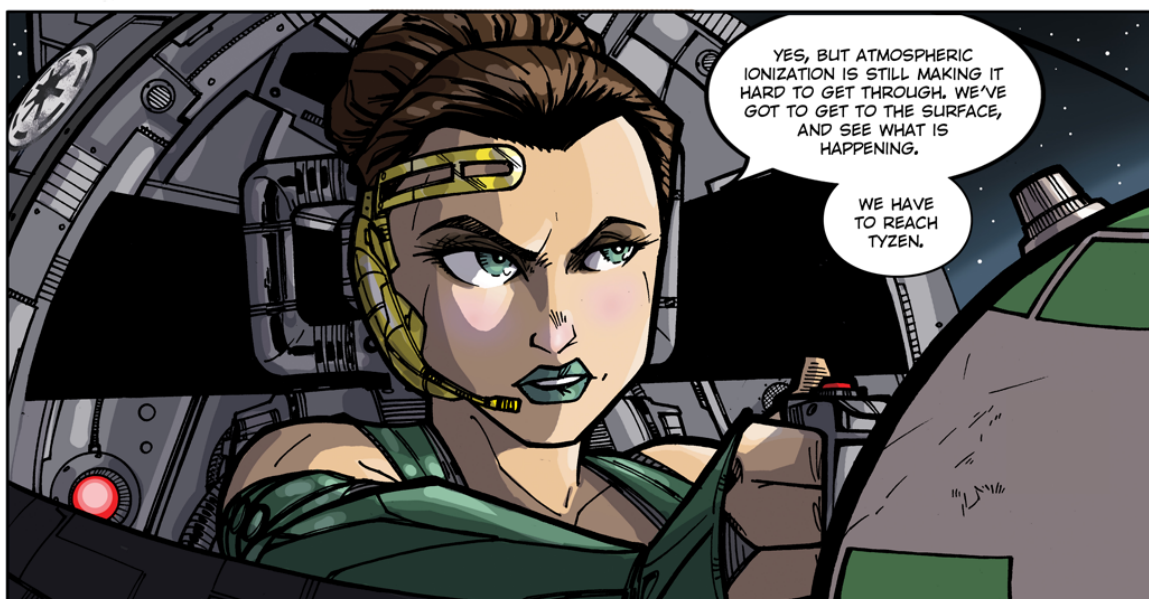


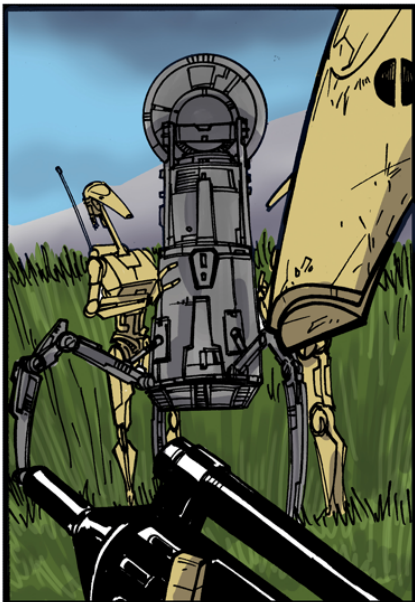
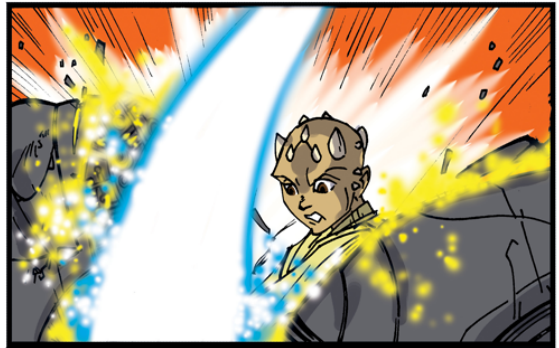
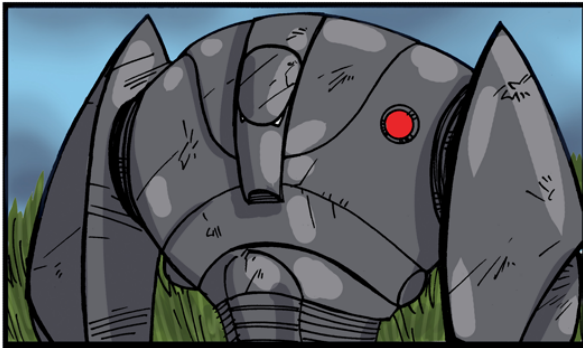
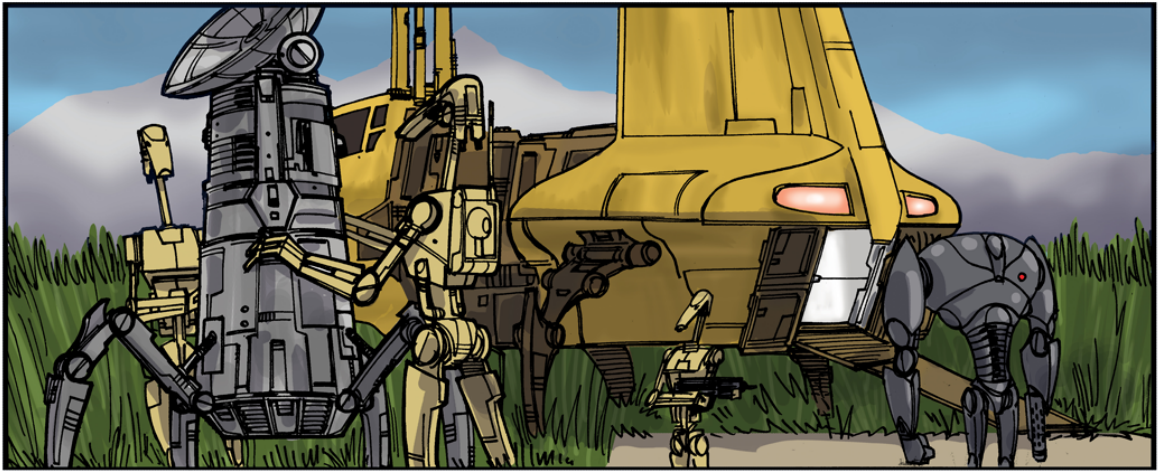


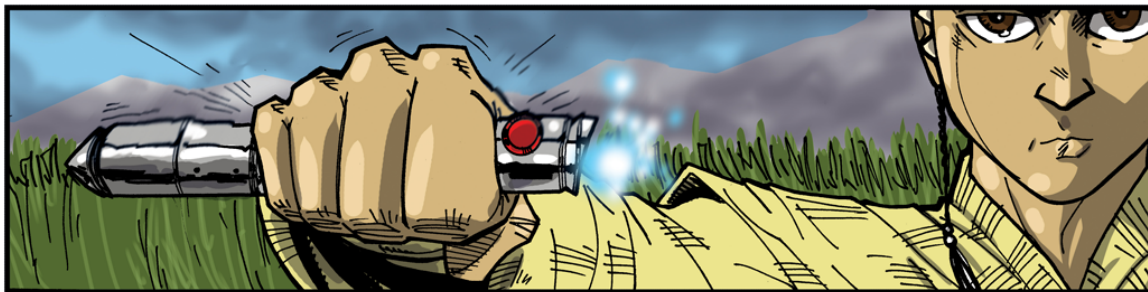
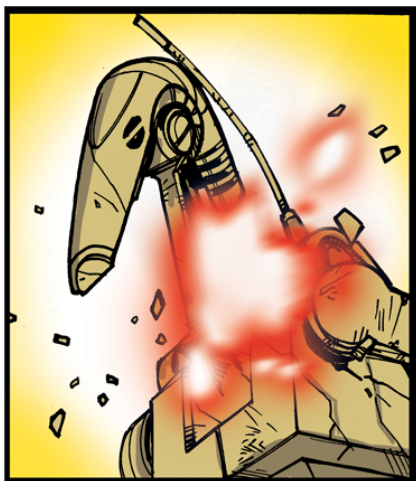












WELL,
THAT CLEARS
THE HEAD.

THERE'S
STILL MORE.
I CAN FEEL
IT.



YOU'RE RIGHT.
THERE'S STILL TWO
MORE OF THESE
OUT THERE.

